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BLUE JAY

June 1986

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The *Blue Jay*, founded in 1942 by Isabel M. Priestly, is a journal of natural history and conservation for Saskatchewan and adjacent regions. It is published quarterly by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Box 1784, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7K 3S1. CN ISSN 0006-5099.

Editor: Sheila Lamont.

Associate Editors: Margaret Belcher, Anthony Capusten, J. Bernard Gollop, Wayne C. Harris, Ronald Hooper, George F. Ledingham, Robert W. Nero, Carol A. Scott.

Editorial Assistant: Carman Dodge

EDITORIAL INFORMATION: All items for publication should be addressed to the editor, Sheila Lamont at **Box 414, Raymore, Saskatchewan. S0A 3J0**

Deadlines for each issue are 2 months prior to issue, i.e., 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. Typewritten manuscripts should be double spaced and submitted in duplicate. For further guidelines contact the editor. Manuscripts may be submitted on IBM compatible 5 ¼ inch diskettes which will be returned to authors when copies have been made.

Photographs submitted should be on glossy paper. Negatives or slides sent will be returned after prints have been made for SNHS files. Prints will be returned on request. Deadlines for photographic materials are 4 weeks prior to issue, i.e. 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November.

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ADVERTISING: Advertising rates may be obtained from SNHS, Box 1784, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7K 3S1

REPRINTS: Requests for quantities of reprints of any article in the *Blue Jay* should be sent to Commercial Printers, Limited, 1935 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 2T6 within one month of publication. Contributors wishing a few extra copies of the current *Blue Jay* may get them at cost. Request for these should be made to the editor when material is submitted for publication.

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IN MEMORIAM — ERIC MANLEY CALLIN (1911 - 1985)



E. Manley Callin

Maurice Lindgren

We laid him to rest on 9 November 1985 in Lakeview Cemetery at Fort Qu'Appelle beside his beloved Margaret. Where we stood, bare-headed to the punishing wind, high on the southern flank of their Valley was the finest view one could want. Three lakes can be seen, all of which he knew intimately from years of tirelessly exploring for his major passion - wild birds. We could see the marsh where he shared the discovery of Saskatchewan's first Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and the places where he, with friends, had found the valley's first Iceland and Thayer's Gulls. For those he left behind the valley will now be lonelier.

Eric Manley Callin was born in Whitewood, Saskatchewan to John and

Anna (nee Vickberg) Callin, 9 March 1911, one of nine children. The father was born in Blyth, Ontario in 1864 and came to Whitewood in 1883 to take up a homestead. When he died there he had achieved more than his century, reaching 102 years of age. The mother was born in Jamtland, Sweden, in 1876, arriving in Canada in 1892. Both mother and father had an intense love of the natural world which they bequeathed to all nine children: four boys (Leslie of Moose Jaw, Joseph of Whitewood, and Elmer of Revelstoke, B.C.) and five girls (Gertrude of Saskatoon, Verna, Mrs. Norman Cousins, of Whitewood, Norma, Mrs. Ernest Fredlund, of Broadview, and Nancy and Lorna, both now deceased). But for Manley and his twin, Elmer, the wild world outside the door absorbed them

completely. Norma once told me that both boys often wandered off into the bush thus generating many a search by their worried father. Remonstrances evoked from Manley the same answer: "We weren't lost, we were watching things!" Then there was a greater wealth of wildlife in many forms than there is today.

I recall Manley telling me how he and Elmer, on one of these excursions, when they were 14 years old, came across a nest in a quiet grove on their farm. It was attended by two strange birds, one of which was clad in a dramatic uniform of black, white and rose-pink. They later identified the male and female Rose-breasted Grosbeak from a picture in a volume of the Book of Knowledge. Impressed, both became instant birdwatchers and remained so for the rest of their lives. To salute the founder of his lifelong fervour Manley caused its portrait, painted by his friend, Fred Lahrman, of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, to grace the cover of his book: *Birds of the Qu'Appelle, 1857-1979*. When the book was released at the Saskatchewan Natural History Society Annual Spring Meeting, 6, 7, and 8 June 1980 (that year at Camp McKay on Round Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley) the original painting was presented to him as a mark of our appreciation for the effort which had gone into the writing of his *magnum opus* (SNHS Special Publication No. 13).

Manley took his elementary education in a rural one-roomed school, Park School, then attended high school in Whitewood. The early summer of 1928 saw him as a 95-lb. crewman struggling with horse-drawn fresnos and scrapers on a road gang but he soon got more congenial work keeping books: for the Bank of Montreal at Punnichy and Battleford, for the Ford agency at Whitewood, for the Co-op in Kipling, and finally as assistant accountant at Fort San in May 1943. In 1947 the chief accountant retired and

Manley was promoted to fill the vacancy. He remained in that capacity with the Saskatchewan Anti-tuberculosis League, the operators of Fort San, for more than 31 years, retiring on 1 November 1974.

The most significant event of Manley's life occurred there. He met and married Margaret Electa Fyke of Moosomin, a student nurse and a patient at Fort San, in November 1944. For 31 years they were a devoted couple, particularly as Margaret supported Manley to the fullest in his vocation and avocation. Her sudden death on 19 January 1976 was a shattering blow from which Manley never really recovered. His Dedication of their project, his book on the birds of the Qu'Appelle Valley, is a moving tribute to a staunch supporter and loving spouse.

No one was better acquainted with the valley's bird life than Manley. He had spent all of his 74 years in it and its environs except for the 5 years 1929-31 and 1941-42 when he was employed elsewhere. For 42 years he lived in the Fort Qu'Appelle area where he chronicled the bird life, and for 55 years of the period 1925-1985 he watched and listened to the birds of the valley, assisted by a host of friends, residents of the valley and members of the Fort Qu'Appelle Natural History Society, all of whom contributed to his detailed records. He had a marvelous ear for bird songs and calls and many times he demonstrated his aural acuity by accurately naming a bird species after hearing the faintest of calls. He demonstrated the value of his skill when, in an article in the *Blue Jay* in September 1968 (26(3):139) he reported the presence for the first time in his valley of an Eastern Wood Pewee which he had heard and identified when rising for the day 22 June 1968. No one was better fitted for the task of writing a description of the bird life of the Qu'Appelle region. His book, covering 122 years of bird records, has been described as the best annotated bird checklist published for North America.

Manley had accumulated considerable additional data, including a number of species new to the area so he had plans to publish a supplement to his book. It was not to be. The summary of his data from 1980 until his death, compiled and augmented by friends and SNHS members will be found in this issue of Blue Jay,

Manley was a solid conservationist and was generous with his resources in supporting the Saskatchewan Natural History Society's programs. He donated the years of recording, the meticulous files and notes, and the considerable labour of distilling them for publication. Recognizing his outstanding contribution to their cause, the Board of Directors of SNHS determined to show the appreciation of the Society in a tangible way. Another great conservationist, his friend and fine artist Fred Lahrman had donated the painting of a lovely pair of Gadwall so that prints could be made for sale to support the SNHS Heritage Marshes Program. Print No. 1 was reserved for Fred but Print No. 2 was presented to Manley on the evening of 15 October 1983 at Fort San, the locale of the SNHS Annual Meeting.

Manley was a man of ready wit. His hilarious acceptance speech was delivered in a casual, deadpan manner plentifully punctuated with witty comments that kept his audience laughing. For example, he recalled that his first job on the books of the bank was difficult but he survived because he remembered that the credit side of the ledger was the side nearest the window! He did learn because for years he was the auditor of the books of both the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and The Blue Jay Bookshop.

His lifelong friend, fellow birder and early companion, John Nelson, recalled how Manley and Elmer founded the Sylvan Bird Club in the Percival School. For some years the group regularly went

on birdwatching hikes in the vicinity of ½j½Percival. In the biographical notes in his book Manley observed that, as time passed, the area explored grew to include Round, Crooked and Ekapo Lakes. The Callin twins started to keep bird records in 1926. That year Manley began corresponding with A. G. Lawrence, the editor of 'Chickadee Notes,' the weekly nature column in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and sent him bird observations until illness forced Lawrence to give up the column in 1954. The resulting friendship lasted until Lawrence's death in 1961, whereupon his widow presented his telescope to Manley, who treasured it.

Manley also contributed bird notes from Qu'Appelle to Hugh Boyd, who edited a weekly column 'About Birds' which ran in the *Regina Leader-Post* from 1933 to 1937. In the biographical notes in his book Manley gives considerable data about his birding companions and friends who contributed to the book, as well as about those whose records were written long before his time. For many years John Nelson and Donald Weidl joined Manley and David Chaskavitch at Broadview each spring for a 2-day birding weekend covering their boyhood haunts. From 1982 until 1985 I was honoured to be included in the party. The 1982 trip was particularly memorable as Don photographed, on 6 June, a male Scarlet Tanager. In 1984 the party included Terry Toews.

Among his personal traits Manley had the enviable knack of attracting and keeping friends. Attesting to this, St. John's Church in Fort Qu'Appelle was packed to the doors at his funeral. He pays tribute to many of them in the acknowledgements in his book. We will all miss him but none more than Kay and Maurice Lindgren, his next-door neighbours in Fort Qu'Appelle since 1971. After Margaret's passing in 1976, their constant concern for his welfare helped him overcome lengthy periods of illness while their cheerfulness lifted his

spirits when he most needed it. Manley introduced Maurice and Kay to the pleasures of birdwatching and they then contributed to his records. Another of Manley's interests was baseball and often Kay and Maurice kept him company when his favourite team, the Toronto Blue Jays, was featured on television. Regardless of the accumulation of material things, when one comes to the end of his days his wealth is to be found in the number and regard of his friends. In this respect Manley Callin was a very wealthy man!

Manley was not a great traveller. When he and Margaret were younger they did move about a bit but the greater part of his journeying was in the valley area so his life list of birds seen was mainly those species he had encountered there. Quite a number of years ago I remember he stayed overnight in Regina with friends and in the morning he and I drove south of the city so that he could do prairie birding for a change. He was so pleased to discover McCown's Longspur, a new bird for his life list.

After Margaret died, Manley and his sister Gertrude went to Revelstoke to visit their brother, Elmer, who had settled there in 1951. I can recall only two other occasions when Manley left the valley on birding trips. Bob Kreba, of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, had told me of a pair of Barred Owls he had found late in June 1980 on the Red Squirrel Nature Trail in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. As neither of us had ever seen a Barred Owl Manley agreed to go with me. On 4 July we arrived at the park and in due course walked down the trail 100 yards until we located the owls - lifers for both of us! The birds put on a good show for us which Manley enjoyed hugely.

Bob Luterbach (a birding friend from Regina), Manley and I spent 28 and 29 May 1981 in Riding Mountain National Park. Considerable rain interfered but we

managed to see and hear some good birds. Manley's and Bob's keen ears readily identified bird species by songs so it was edifying to watch these two aural experts zero in on each of the several Golden-winged Warblers we found as both had learned the songs from records. We also saw another Barred Owl.

Manley was not a robust man. His last few years were distressful. He was plagued by an arthritic back which made walking painful. Three times in one 10-month period he underwent major surgery but his back pain and walking difficulties remained. On two or three occasions when we thought the end had come he recovered and soon was his old self — cheerful and anxious to be out with the birds in spite of the back and legs. He was so remarkably resilient that the end was a distinct shock to us. As I look back over the last few years and remember how much effort it cost him even to walk from the house to the car for our weekly birding trips with Johnnie, I am comforted in my belief that at the last Death came as a friend and joined him to his waiting Margaret — though it left us desolate. — *Frank Brazier*, 2657 Cameron Street, Regina, Saskatchewan. S4T 2W5

ADDITIONS TO CALLIN'S BIRDS OF THE QU'APPELLE*

Compiled by C. STUART HOUSTON and MARY I. HOUSTON, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7N 0J8.

Introduction

It has been a pleasure to comb through Manley Callin's notebooks and files in order to prepare the records which constitute the additions to his published *Birds of the Qu'Appelle*, 1857-1979.

Manley was a meticulous record-keeper all his life. He shared with Saskatchewan's other self-taught, life-long student of birds, the late Maurice G. Street of Nipawin, the habit of careful recording of every observation, using little pocket notebooks that in depression days were called "nickel notebooks" since they then sold for 5 cents. From Manley's notebooks, we not only learn much about birds, but also about "bird people" — particularly Manley and the many birders who so faithfully reported to him.

Even when Manley's health deteriorated to the point where birding was mainly carried out through his kitchen and car windows, birds at no time lost their fascination for him. Manley's excitement can be sensed from the way he records simple observations, underlining the earliest date for every migrant each year. In 1984, 13 of the first 35 arrivals set record early dates for their species. He also records the first day he identified five different species of gull (May 9, 1984), and the first individual of each new species to be seen in his yard at 366 Bay Street in Fort Qu'Appelle: a Ruffed Grouse drinking from the bird bath on September 13, 1984, and visits from a Ring-necked Pheasant on May 1, 1985 and a Rufous-sided Towhee on May 12, 1985. On May 11, 1980 Jack Lowe cleaned out Manley's purple martin house: "All eight sections had young or eggs of the house sparrow."

Manley watched the two feeders and the bird bath in his backyard, noting in detail the comings and goings of each avian visitor. The entry of September 25, 1982 tells of "a very good wave from 7.30 to 8.15 a.m." and for October 5, 1982 includes the following: 'Fifteen species at bird bath today, 12 of them between 3 and 3.30 p.m.... very quiet at other times checked.' He recorded the date that he first put out seeds each fall (e.g. September 6, 1984).

Manley's files fill a four-drawer filing cabinet. They include four sets of manila folders. The first contains one folder for every species, 297 of them. There are other sets for each year (with summaries of dates), for every correspondent, and for every subject. One of the thickest files consists of letters to and from his twin brother Elmer at Revelstoke, British Columbia, each summarizing important bird observations.

* The normal Blue Jay format has been forgone in order to retain the same format used in *Birds of the Qu'Appelle* for this supplement to that special publication (No. 13). Observations were accepted up to 30 April 1986.

Copious weather notes include high and low temperatures for every day, mention of the first frost-free night in spring (March 25, in 1984), and dates of break-up and freeze-up. In 1984, the lakes broke up quickly on April 19; that fall, Echo Lake froze over on November 6, the earliest on record, but Lake Katepwa did not freeze solidly until November 15.

A quiet, modest man, Manley's social contacts were mainly with other birders. He cultivated a local network of observers. In a town of 1,600 population he gave or sold 250 copies of Robbins' field guide, *Birds of North America*. Old birders and new recruits alike loyally reported their observations to him, weekly or even daily. His notebooks record every visit, giving the exact hour of arrival and departure, and every phone call.

Maurice and Kay Lindgren next door on Bay Avenue were unusually kind neighbors, helping him with household repairs such as laying rugs and replacing a toilet seat, and entertaining him until the wee small hours on his birthday or at New Years' when he might otherwise have been lonesome.

Frank Brazier, often accompanied by John Nelson, came from Regina every week or two, to go birding with Manley, from his wife Margaret's death until near his end. The best spots for birding from a car were the large "Balcarres slough" 3 km southwest of Balcarres, the east end of Mission Lake near the village of Lebret, and the dam at Fort Qu'Appelle. An annual event was the weekend outing to birding hot-spots further east, to Broadview and Ekapo Lake one day and Round Lake and Scissor Creek the next, accompanied by John Nelson, David Chaskavich, Don Weidl and Frank Brazier.

Careful and cautious, Manley had quite a few entries of uncertain identification, denoted by a question mark. Such observations have not been used. Birds in flight at a distance caused much grief, particularly accipiters, gulls and terns, when they did not allow close enough approach for accurate identification. He could identify small birds such as warblers and sparrows by ear, pointing out any one of the many dialects of the American Redstart and Yellow Warbler, some of them most difficult to differentiate. Only after publication of his book did he learn to differentiate the Forster's from the Common Tern and the Ring-billed from the California Gull. He was not enthusiastic about new-fangled names, continuing in spite of the 6th AOU Checklist to speak of the Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk and Sparrow Hawk instead of the Northern Harrier, Merlin and Kestrel. Never did he deign to mention the lowly Rock Dove.

Although his handwriting gradually became slower and shakier, Manley's analytical and reasoning powers remained strong to the end. The numerous records of all-time early dates attest to the breadth and intensity of coverage in the six years since publication of his book.

The following list gives the pertinent observations made since January 1980, when the third and final version of Callin's manuscript was completed. Added on the basis of sight records are 10 new species: Arctic Loon, Red-throated Loon, Eurasian Wigeon, Black Scoter, Western Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Least Tern, and Three-toed Woodpecker, and two hypothetical species, the Cattle Egret and Red-shouldered Hawk. Further well-documented sight records have elevated the Barrow's Goldeneye from the hypothetical to the accepted list. The area list now stands at 298 species plus 5 hypothetical species plus 5 readily identifiable subspecies

that once were classed as full species (consult "The Birds," p.19 in Callin, 1980). One new breeding record, for the Orange-crowned Warbler, brings the breeding species total to 134.

In addition, earlier spring arrival and later fall departure dates have been obtained for a surprising number of species in the six years since the original publication. Manley's book has served as the catalyst to encourage everyone to watch for all-time record-breaking dates. To emphasize the magnitude of this phenomenon, I have listed, for example, under "early spring date", not only the new earliest date, but each date earlier than the best recorded between 1857 and 1979.

Unlike the 1980 book, the present supplement deals more exclusively with the Fort Qu'Appelle area, except for one or two annual excursions to Round Lake and Ekapo Lake. First or second observations for any species in the area are noted by upper case letters.

The term "modern" refers to records since 1926. Modern vernacular and scientific names are based on the 6th AOU Checklist, but for ready reference and comparison, page numbers and the sequence of species refer to the 1980 publication.

Because we believe that few if any areas of North America can boast such a long-term record of bird life as the Qu'Appelle Valley, because the area has always had an incredibly high proportion of its human population taking a serious interest in birds, and because Manley's original list is one of the finest on the continent, it seemed appropriate to make this record as complete as possible.

Generous donations, one of them a recycled bequest from Manley Callin's will, have allowed publication of this augmented section of the June 1986 Blue Jay. Owners of Birds of the Qu'Appelle, 1857-1979 and future purchasers may obtain a separate reprint of this subsidized supplement by sending \$2 for postage and handling to the editor, Sheila Lamont at Box 414, Raymore, Saskatchewan. SOA 3JO

Additions to species accounts:

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COMMON LOON *Gavia immer*

Early spring dates, April 17, 1981 (Barnett) and three on April 19, 1985 (Hooper).

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica*

New species. Two pairs seen at 75 m distance at Mission Lake on May 7, 1983 (Ken Ashdown). Two pairs (same birds?) on river at dam. Fort Qu'Appelle, brown nape visible at 80 m. May 8, 1983 (Maurice and Kay Lindgren).

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata*

New species. "One May day in the early 1970's I saw a Red-throated Loon swimming in Echo Lake. It was within 100 yards of the shore and the reddish-brown throat was clearly visible without the aid of binoculars." (Hooper)

EARED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Early spring date, April 17, 1981, four pairs at Balcarres Slough (Laing), and two on April 19, 1985 (Hooper).

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WESTERN GREBE *Aechmoporus occidentalis*

Late fall date, in open water of Echo Lake, November 25, 1980 (Barrett).

PIED-BILLED GREBE *Podilymbus podiceps*

Early spring date at dam, April 14, 1981 (Laing).

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DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Early spring dates, one each on April 11, 1986 at Fort Qu'Appelle (Nelson), April 12, 1981 (Nelson and Callin) and on April 13, 1985 (Laing).

GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*

Early spring date at Deep Lake on April 4, 1981 (Scott & Scott).

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CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

New species. One among cattle at Muscowpetung Indian Reserve from late April through the end of May, 1981. Good views, noting especially the rusty on the back. (Jim Keepness, fide Hooper). One in field with cattle, 11.2 km south and 1.6 km east of Indian Head on October 13, 1984 (Scott & Scott).

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TUNDRA SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Early spring dates, 2 at Echo Lake on March 31, 1981, 6 on March 31, 1985 (Hooper) and 12 on April 4, 1984 (Mlazgar). *Early fall date*, west end of Mission Lake, September 30, 1983 (Brazier and Callin). *Late fall dates*, seven at west end of Pasqua Lake, November 24, 1979 (Callin), and one on river at Fort Qu'Appelle, December 11, 1985, found dead next day near the dam (Perkins, Rowell).

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (Hypothetical)

Fred Dunk, Jr., accompanied by John Most and Jim Yanko of Regina, reported seeing three on October 26 and 27, 1979. They were studied with binoculars at 350 meters, but differentiating features were not evident at this distance.

Whistling (Tundra) Swans were seen before and after, but not on the same day. Dunk was struck by the difference in the calls of the two sizes of swans.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*.

Early spring dates, 11 on river, February 24, 1984 (Callin), 50 flying 7 miles south of Indian Head on February 25, 1981 (Raymond Longeau, fide Scott), and 2 flying over Sanatorium on March 3, 1981 (Cockwill).

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GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Late fall date, Deep Lake, November 23, 1980 (Scott).

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SNOW GOOSE *Chen caerulescens*.

a) White morph. *Early spring dates*, 15 on March 29, 1984 (Cochrane), 15 flying over Deep Lake on March 29, 1986 (Lahrman, Scott and Scott), and 10 on March 31, 1985 (Callin and Lindgren). *Late fall date* at Deep Lake, November 23, 1980 (Scott).

b) Blue morph. *Early spring dates*, 7 flying over Deep Lake on March 29, 1986 (Lahrman, Scott & Scott), 10 on April 11, 1981 (Mlazgar). *Late fall date* on Mission lake, November 5, 1983 (Hooper).

ROSS' GOOSE *Chen rossii*

Second and third modern records: two birds in a mixed flock of geese feeding in a field to the west of the Balcarres slough, April 21, 1980 (Ken Messner), and six in flock of Snow Geese 3 miles south of Indian Head in early October 1983 (Lahrman and Scott).

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MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Large wintering numbers at Sioux Bridge in 1981: 300 on January 8 (Brazier and Callin), with 150 still present on March 8 (de Vries).

Page 50

BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes*

An adult female was shot at the west end of Pasqua Lake on October 18, 1980 (Fred Dunk, Jr.) and the duck shown to Callin, his first direct acquaintance with this species. *Late fall date*, two at Deep Lake, November 11, 1980 (Scott and Lahrman).

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Early spring dates, March 30, 1981 (Callin), and south of Indian Head, April 4, 1981 (Scott).

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BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

Early spring date, one on April 13, 1985 (Hooper). *Late fall date*, November 8, 1984 (Laing).

Page 52

CINNAMON TEAL *Anas cyanoptera*

Early spring date and sixth record for area, April 26, 1981 (Nelson).

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

New species. A pair at east end of Echo Lake, watched for 15 minutes at 100 m distance on April 25, 1982 (Nelson and Callin).

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

Early spring dates, a male on March 21, 1986 (Hooper) and one on April 2, 1981 (Brazier and Callin).

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Early spring dates, a male on March 30, 1981 (Callin), and a male on March 12, 1986 (Hooper).

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Early spring date, a male in Bluebill Bay, April 21, 1985 (Lindgren). While canoeing along the creek on June 3, 1985, Maurice and Kay Lindgren saw a pair, following other reports through most of May. Clearly the species is increasing, aided by the release of flightless young by the Wildlife Federation; Callin went to see 89 young in a pen on July 15, 1984, just prior to their release.

Page 53

REDHEAD *Aythya americana*

Early spring date, March 30, 1981 (Callin).

Page 54

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Early spring dates, a pair on March 24, 1984 (Hooper) and three pairs on April 12, 1981 (Callin and Nelson). *Late fall dates*, three pairs on November 9, 1980 (Callin and Nelson) and a male on open water near the hatchery at Echo Lake on November 10-11, 1984 (Kreba, Brazier and Callin; Laing).

Page 55

CANVASBACK *Aythya valisineria*

Early spring date, a pair at the Sioux Bridge on March 4, 1980 (Lowe).

GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Second modern sight record and late fall date, one on Echo Lake, November 10, 1984 (Adam, Luterbach, Fitzgerald). An earlier sight record, with corroborating details has come to light since publication: a male seen by Dale Hjertaas at Ekapo Lake, on May 2, 1979.

Page 56

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Early spring dates, March 5, 1981 (de Vries), March 14, 1986 (Hooper), March 19, 1985 (Hooper), and March 24, 1984 (Brazier and Callin).

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BARROW'S GOLDENEYE *Bucephala islandica*

Third and fourth records: a pair on Echo Lake on April 2, 1984 (Hooper) and a male near the hatchery at Echo Lake, November 7, 1984 (Hooper) with two at the same place on November 8, 1984 (Laing) (Hooper, *Blue Jay* 43:181).

BUFFLEHEAD *Bucephala albeola*

Early spring date, March 30, 1981 (Laing). *First summer record*, a female July 19, 1984 (Hooper). *Largest flock*, 150 birds at west end of Echo Lake, October 11, 1980 (Callin).

OLDSQUAW *Clangula hyemalis*

Second, third and fourth modern records: a female seen at close range on river about November 24, 1981 (Norman); one at mouth of river at east end of Echo Lake, September 28, 1982 (Dunk); an immature female at the hatchery on Echo Lake, November 7, 1984 (Hooper, *Blue Jay* 43:181) and November 8, 1984 (Laing).

Page 58

BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

New species. One seen at Deep Lake, south of Indian Head, on November 11, 1980 (Lahrman and Scott, *Blue Jay* 39:181).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Late fall date, a female at hatchery on Echo Lake on November 8, 1984 (Hooper) and one at B-say-tah Point on November 10, 1984 (Adam, Luterbach, Fitzgerald).

HOODED MERGANSER *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Early spring date, seventeen on April 15, 1981 (Callin). *Largest flock*, 28 birds at Deep Lake, November 11-28, 1980 (Scott and Lahrman).

Page 59

COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser*

Early spring dates, one at Echo Park, March 9, 1984 (Brazier and Nelson), and four at Deep Lake on March 30, 1986 (Lahrman, Scott and Scott).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Early spring date, a pair on March 24, 1984 (Hooper).

Page 60

TURKEY VULTURE *Cathartes aura*

Early spring date, four seen by Mabel Peigan at close range, feeding on a dead horse, on Muscowpetung Indian Reserve during last week in February 1985 (Hooper). *Late fall date*, one near Indian Head, November 3, 1980 (Scott).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

The fall of 1984 produced more than the usual number of sightings: one on November 22 (Ray Mlazgar); one on Pasqua Indian Reserve on November 25 (Hooper); one near Edgeley on November 27 (Rowell); one on Muscowpetung Indian Reserve on December 17 (Hooper).

Page 61

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK *Buteo lineatus* (Hypothetical new species)

One sighted by Don Hayward near Wolseley, August 17, 1980 (Harris, *American Birds* 35:195, 1981).

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis*

Early spring date, March 15, 1981 (Mlazgar).

Page 63

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK *Buteo lagopus*

Early spring date, March 5, 1981 at Cochrane's farm (Cochrane).

Page 64

FERRUGINOUS HAWK *Buteo regalis*

A pair seen April 30, 1986 west of Crooked Lake (Harris, Dodge).

Page 65

NORTHERN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Early spring date, one on February 29, 1984 (Cochrane).

Page 66

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus*

First gray phase bird for this area was sighted by Alan and Ray Mlazgar on January 16, 1985.

PRAIRIE FALCON *Falco mexicanus*

Fifth modern record, September 23, 1984 (Hooper).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Early spring date, 7 miles south and 2 miles east of Indian Head, April 8, 1981 (Lahrman, Scott and Scott).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

First wintering occurred in 1980: Hooper saw one flying over Fort Qu'Appelle on January 9, and at least one bird was present at Errol Cochrane's feed lot through March 3, and two birds thereafter. The first sighting at Callin's yard on Bay Avenue was a female on March 25. Early spring date, a territorial bird at Sanatorium, February 21, 1984 (Harrison). Recent nesting: in a previous crow nest in a spruce on a residential street in Indian Head, in 1984 and 1985 (Scott).

Page 71

SANDHILL CRANE *Grus canadensis*

Early spring dates, fifteen flying over Scott farm south of Indian Head, March 28, 1986, a flock heard over Fort Qu'Appelle, March 30, 1981 (Callin), and one (wintering?) bird flying along valley with long thin legs and extended neck, February 25, 1984 (Cochrane).

Page 73

SORA *Porzana carolina*

Early spring date, Cherry Lake, April 23, 1981 (Scott).

Page 76

COMMON SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*

Early spring date, in open water at Sioux Bridge, February 28, 1981 (Kreba).

Page 77

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda*

Possible recent indication of breeding: a pair acting as though on territory at the Strawberry lakes Community Pasture on June 15, 1985 (Scott and Scott).

Page 78

GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca*

Late fall date, November 5, 1983 (Brazier and Callin).

Page 79

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Early spring date, May 12, 1981.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Early spring date at Balcarres slough, April 24, 1981 (Callin).

Page 80

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER *Calidris bairdii*

Early fall date, July 9, 1981 (Brazier and Callin).

LEAST SANDPIPER *Calidris minutilla*

Early positive identification at Katepwa on May 9, 1985 (Brazier, Nelson and Callin).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Tenth and eleventh records, one on May 17, 1981 (Nelson and Callin) and two on May 26, 1984 (Brazier, Nelson, Chaskavich, Weidl and Callin).

Page 82

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla*

Early spring date, April 30, 1981 (Brazier and Callin). *Early fall date*, twelve at Balcarres slough on July 2, 1981 (Brazier and Callin).

WESTERN SANDPIPER *Calidris mauri*

New species. Two at Edgeley Marsh May 16, 1984 (Hooper, *Blue Jay* 43:181).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica*

Eleventh modern record, May 16, 1984.

Page 83

AMERICAN AVOCET *Recurvirostra americana*

Early spring dates, one at Strawberry Lakes on April 19, 1981 (Lahrman, Scott and Scott), and four near Fort Qu'Appelle on April 25, 1981 (Laing).

Page 84

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Early fall date, two at Balcarres slough on July 6, 1981 (Widstrand, Risinger and Callin). *Late fall date*, thirty at Lebret sewage lagoon on September 18, 1982 (Brazier and Callin).

Page 85

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus*

New species. Only after publication of *Birds of the Qu'Appelle* did Callin learn of a female specimen in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, collected at 'Pasqua Point', Pasqua Lake, by Fred Dunk, Sr., on October 28, 1936 (SMNH accession # 3793).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Early spring dates, four on April 2, 1984 (Kreba) and one on April 9, 1985 (Hooper).

CALIFORNIA GULL *Larus californicus*

Early spring date, 15 on April 9, 1985 (Hooper).

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

Early spring date, April 2, 1984 (Brazier, Nelson, Kreba, Hooper and Callin). Unusual feeding behaviour, feeding on chokecherries, but having difficulty as they could not perch properly to reach the berries, September 14, 1979 (Elsie Pattullo).

Page 86

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*

New species. One at east end of Katepwa Lake on May 18, 1984 (Brazier, *Blue Jay* 43:136). Ten at Fort Qu'Appelle on April 6, 1985 (Hooper). Two at east end of Echo lake on March 26, 1986 (Hooper).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

New Species. One April 14, 1985 (Chaskavitch). One at Mission Lake April 30, 1986 (Harris, Dodge).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

First record, at Katepwa Lake, April 24-25, 1980 (Brazier, Blue Jay 39:96; also published as an addendum on p.159 of Birds of the Qu'Appelle). *Second record*, at Katepwa Lake, November 11, 1984 (Callin).

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Larus philadelphia*

Early spring date, eight on April 19, 1985 (Hooper).

FORSTER'S TERN *Sterna forsteri*

Early spring dates, April 24, 1981 (Callin) and May 2, 1985 (Callin). *Late fall date*, at Mission Lake, October 5, 1984 (Brazier and Callin).

Page 87

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Early spring date, with close view of colour of beak and wings, April 19, 1985 (Hooper).

Page 88

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*

New species. One seen at dam at Fort Qu'Appelle by Widstrand, Risinger and Callin on July 6, 1981. The two young Swedish ornithologists, visiting with Callin, thought this was an ordinary "ho hum" sighting of the Little Tern so familiar to them.

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia*

Sixth and seventh records: one at the east end of Katepwa Lake on July 9, 1981, a "lifer" for Callin; one on May 16, 1984 (Brazier, Nelson and Callin; early spring date).

Page 93

BOREAL OWL *Aegolius funereus*

Seventh modern record: a freshly dead specimen, still warm, picked up at the Prairie Christian Training Center on November 28, 1984 (Rowell). Specimen sent to Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History (SMNH).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL *Aegolius acadicus*

Additional February records in 1985: one photographed at Prairie Christian Training Center by Hooper and de Vries on February 1; seen at Lebret by McCullough on February 2; one seen at Katepwa by Hugh Stueck on February 6.

Page 94

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris*

Early spring date, May 14, 1981 (Rowell). *Late fall date*, September 20-24, 1985 (Lindgren).

Page 95

NORTHERN FLICKER

b) Red-shafted Flicker. *Colaptes auratus cafer*

First modern record: one found dead, September 13, 1981 (Golly).

Page 96

PILEATED WOODPECKER *Dryocopus pileatus*

Fifth record, 7 miles south and 2 miles east of Indian Head, May 12, 1982 (Joan Scott). *Sixth record and first summer record*: east end of Crooked Lake, May 27, 1984 (Brazier, Nelson, Chaskavich, Weidl, Callin).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Eighth and ninth records: at farm south of Indian Head, June 30, 1980 (Scott); one near Balgonie, May 24, 1982 (unnamed "lady from Regina").

Page 97

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER *Picoides arcticus*

Sixth record: two, chasing each other through the trees on Bay Avenue, September 15, 1985 (Lindgren and Callin).

Page 98

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER *Picoides tridactylus*

New species. Female seen on trunk of a spruce, during the Christmas count, December 31, 1984 (Hooper, Blue Jay 43: 181).

EASTERN KINGBIRD *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Early spring date, April 19, 1981 (Barnett).

Page 100

SAY'S PHOEBE *Sayornis saya*

Eighth and ninth modern records: at Round Lake, May 27, 1984 (Brazier, Nelson, Chaskavich, Weidl, Callin); one seen south of Welby, only 8 km west of Manitoba boundary, on July 5, 1984 (Kreba).

Page 103

HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris*

Additional winter records, Balcarres, January 3, 1980 (Hooper), and 25 on January 30, 1981 (Hooper).

Page 104

TREE SWALLOW *Iridoprocne bicolor*

Early spring date, eight at Deep Lake on April 17, 1981 (Lahrman, Scott and Scott).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Fourth breeding record: at nest hole in bank at Scissor Creek on Highway #9, May 27, 1984 (Brazier, Nelson, Chaskavich, Weidl, Callin). Possible territorial pair: two along Pipestone Creek, south of Ekapo Lake, May 24, 1981 (Brazier, Nelson, Chaskavich, Weidl, Callin).

Page 105

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Early spring date, one at Balgonie on April 18, 1981 (Lahrman, Scott and Scott).

Page 106

PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis*

Early spring date, April 18, 1981 (Norman).

Page 107

GRAY JAY *Perisoreus canadensis*

An unprecedented number invaded the Fort Qu'Appelle area in the fall of 1984: one stayed near Lipton from October 26 through November 23 (Mlazgar); one visited a feeder at Sandy Beach, Katepwa from October 27 through November 18 (Marge Leader); one came to Cockwill's on Hudson Avenue from October 29 through November 4; one visited a feeder in Fort Qu'Appelle, November 19-30 (Laing); one was seen at the west edge of Fort Qu'Appelle, December 17 (Hooper).

Page 108

COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Early fall dates, October 26, 1980 (Lindgren) and November 2, 1984 (Mlazgar, Luterbach). An incursion unprecedented in recent years occurred in 1984: a bird present at Mlazgar's farm, four miles south and three miles east of Lipton, stayed until November 15; another individual flew south over Fort Qu'Appelle on November 10 (Adam, Luterbach, Fitzgerald); one was at Katepwa on November 12 (Marge Leader); one was seen at the Albert Braumberger farm above the Sioux Bridge in late November (Lowe).

Page 109

AMERICAN CROW *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Early spring dates, February 22, 1981 (Hiebert), February 28, 1983 (Mlazar), and two near Indian Head, March 7, 1982 (Hudell).

Page 110

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE *Parus atricapillus*

In the winter of 1979-80, there were unusual reports of one-legged birds: one at Cockwill's through November and December; and two at a Katepwa feeding station, February 4, 1980.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH *Sitta carolinensis*

Early song, March 16, 1981 (Callin). *Sixth breeding record*: feeding two young, B-say-tah, July 6, 1984 (Hooper).

Page 112

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH *Sitta canadensis*

Unlike most other Saskatchewan localities, the valley seems to have few that winter. Callin has recorded an early spring date of April 5, 1982.

BROWN CREEPER *Certhia americana*

Second winter record, one on Bay Avenue, January 19, 1985 (Hooper). (Elsewhere in Saskatchewan, one would expect records throughout many winters.CSH)

Page 114

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis*

Fifth mid-summer record of singing males near Fort Qu'Appelle: northeast of hospital, July 10, 1984 (Callin).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD *Mimus polyglottos*

Fifth and sixth records: one on territory, singing from a large, solitary poplar in a weedy pasture southeast of Jameson, at the extreme southwest corner of area, June 25-28, 1984 (Kreba, Lahrman, Turner). Another was heard from the railway above, singing in impenetrable shrubs at the bottom of the valley at Scissors Creek, southeast of Tantallon, July 5, 1984 (Kreba, Russon).

Page 115

AMERICAN ROBIN *Turdus migratorius*

Early nest with three eggs, April 29, 1981 (Cockwill). Unusual winter numbers, 25 at Katepwa on Christmas Bird Count, December 21, 1985.

Page 116

VARIED THRUSH *Ixoreus naevius*

Six records, four of them in 1984, have been added to the published five. An adult female was found dead in mid-December 1983 in Qu'Appelle by Annette Isabel, and was donated to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History (SMNH). A female was seen one mile west of Lebret, September 24, 1984 (Hooper). A male was killed when it flew into a window at Cockwill's, Bay Avenue, on September 27, 1984; this specimen was sent to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina (Cockwill). An adult male visited Wanda Stueck's feeding station at the east end of Katepwa Lake for one hour on October 29, 1984. An adult male visited Enola Rak's feeding station on the Sanatorium grounds from November 13 through November 20, 1984; this or another individual was at the Sanatorium from December 1 through December 23 (Robillard). One visited Marg Thompson's feeding station at Katepwa on April 16, 1985.

Page 117

SWAINSON'S THRUSH *Catharus ustulatus*

Early fall dates, August 19, 1980 and August 31 of both 1981 and 1982 (Callin).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus*

Early spring date, one on May 6, 1984 (Callin), one April 12, 1986 at Lumby Spring (Nelson).

Page 118

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD *Sialia currucoides*

Largest spring flock ever, 40 feeding on snowberries in marsh near Fort Qu'Appelle on March 22, 1980 (Brazier and Callin). *Early nest* with one egg, south of Indian Head, April 22, 1980 (Scott).

Page 119

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE *Myadestes townsendi*

Second and third records: one at Camp McKay at east end of Round Lake on November 12, 1982 (Weidl) and one seen in Fort Qu'Appelle at close range on October 20, 1984 (Cockwill and Hiebert); the bird noted at the Prairie Christian Training Center on October 26 may well have been the latter individual (Rowell).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus satrapa*

Sixth and seventh winter records: one on February 21, 1981 (de Vries) and one at Sanatorium on December 20, 1984 (Norman).

Page 121

CEDAR WAXWING *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Third largest wintering flock of 16 birds accompanying a larger flock of Bohemians on February 5, 1980 (Callin).

Page 122

NORTHERN SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Early fall date, October 7, 1984 (Laing).

Page 123

EUROPEAN STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Only occasionally do starlings winter in the valley. *Early spring dates* (years when none wintered), two on March 2, 1981 (Mlazgar) and one on March 3, 1980 (Cockwill).

Page 125

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia*

Early spring date, May 3, 1981 (Laing).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER *Vermivora celata*

First nest record: a nest found on the ground near Echo Lake on May 31, 1984 contained only a Brown-headed Cowbird egg, but the next day an Orange-crowned Warbler egg had been added (Golly, confirmed by "museum boys"). *Late fall date*, October 29, 1984 (Hooper).

Page 127

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*

A singing male at a tributary of Scissor Creek on May 27, 1984, may have been a migrant (Brazier, Nelson, Chaskavich, Weidl, Callin).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

a) Myrtle Warbler. *Dendroica coronata coronata*

Early spring date, April 12, 1985 (Callin); April 12, 1986 at east end of Round Lake (Nelson). *Early fall date*, August 24, 1980 (Callin).

b) Audubon's Warbler. *Dendroica coronata auduboni*

Fourth record: one seen at bird bath, September 26, 1985 (Callin).

Page 129

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*

Additional summer records tend to confirm the suggestion that a few pairs may breed within the area. Singing males were present for the first time in

Callin's Coulee in 1983 and 1984, where two were singing on July 2 and 3, 1983 (Brazier, Nelson, Weidl, Callin). In 1984, one male was singing on May 29 and was heard again on June 8, 13, 23 (Brazier, Mundy, Callin). On July 5, 1984 there were also three males singing near Tantallon (Kreba). A male was present in Callin's Coulee on May 22, 1985 (Brazier, Nelson, Callin).

Page 130

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata*

Early fall dates, August 24, 1980, August 31, 1981 and August 31, 1984 (Callin). *Late fall date*, October 5, 1985 (Callin).

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*

Early fall date, an immature near bird bath on August 30, 1981 (Callin).

Page 131

OVENBIRD *Seiurus aurocapillus*

Early spring date, May 14, 1985 (Hooper).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus noveboracensis*

Early fall dates, August 8, 1981 and August 10, 1984 (Callin). *Late fall date*, one found dead at Prairie Christian Training Center, September 28, 1984 (Rowell).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*

Third record, first for spring: at west end of Round Lake, May 24, 1980 (Nelson, Chaskavich, Weidl, Callin).

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia*

Sixth summer record: two singing males in coulee near Bird Point, Round Lake, July 4, 1984 (Kreba, Russon).

Page 133

WILSON'S WARBLER *Wilsonia pusilla*

Early fall date, male in bird bath, August 11, 1981 (Callin). *Late fall dates*, one immature on September 23 and an adult on September 24, 1984 (Callin).

CANADA WARBLER *Wilsonia canadensis*

Second fall date, Echo Lake, with photograph, August 19, 1981 (Golly).

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*

Late fall date, September 26, 1985 (Callin).

Page 135

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

Early spring date, a male at Cherry Lake, April 8, 1981 (Lahrman, Scott and Scott).

Page 137

NORTHERN ORIOLE *Icterus galbula*

Early spring date, May 8, 1981 (Callin).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*

Early fall date, September 9, 1980 (Callin).

Page 138

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Fifth wintering record, daily from November 30, 1979 through February 5, 1980 (Hiebert).

Page 139

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*

Fourth modern record, with recognizable photograph, at Scissor Creek, June 6, 1982 (Nelson, Weidl, Callin).

Page 140

NORTHERN CARDINAL *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Second record: a male, red, smaller than robin, prominent crest, no wing bars, sighted on the Peepeekeesis Indian Reserve, seven miles northeast of Balcarres, on November 11, 1985 (Darryl and Sandra Kitchemonia, fide Hooper).

Page 141

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Fourth and fifth records: female in yard on August 26, 1979 (Callin) and female seen on farm near Lipton on September 6, 1982 (Mlazgar).

Page 143

EVENING GROSBEAK *Coccothraustes vespertina*

Early fall date, September 25, 1980 (Callin).

PURPLE FINCH *Carpodacus purpureus*

First winter record: December 12, 1983 through February 9, 1984 (Cockwill). (There are more numerous winter records for a number of other Saskatchewan localities, as far north as Prince Albert. CSH.)

Page 144

HOUSE FINCH *Carpodacus mexicana*

Second record for area and fifth record for province: an immature or female was present at the bird bath along with three immature or female Purple Finches at 4.15 p.m. on September 11, 1980. From the "ringside seat" of the kitchen window 15 to 20 feet distant, an excellent comparison was possible of the smaller size of the House Finch, the lack of face pattern, much lighter streaks below, stubbier bill and shorter fork in tail (Callin).

Page 146

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Early fall date, one in bird bath on October 1, 1980 (Callin).

PINE SISKIN *Carduelis pinus*

Early spring dates, April 13, 1985 (Cockwill) and May 4, 1981 (Mlazgar).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis tristis*

Early spring date, May 9, 1985 (Brazier, Nelson, Callin).

Page 147

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*

Twelve males singing in Callin's coulee on July 10, 1984 (Callin). Good views showed them to be of the *eastern race*, not *P.e.arcticus*.

Page 148

SAVANNAH SPARROW *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Early spring date, April 17, 1985 (Callin).

Page 152

DARK-EYED JUNCO

a) Slate-colored Junco. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*

Early spring date, March 14, 1981 (Mlazgar). *Early fall date,* September 22, 1981 (Callin).

b) Oregon Junco. *Junco hyemalis oreganus*

Fifth record for Fort Qu'Appelle: May 13, 1982 (Cochrane).

Page 153

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW *Spizella arborea*

Early spring date, loose scattered group of 50 on February 26, 1981 (Cochrane).

CHIPPING SPARROW *Spizella passerina*

Early spring date, April 13, 1985 (Lindgren, Callin).

Page 154

HARRIS' SPARROW *Zonotrichia querula*

Early fall date, one at Lebret bridge, September 11, 1982 (Fort Qu'Appelle Naturalists). *Fourth winter record*, January 3, 1986 (Hooper).

Page 155

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Early spring date, April 16, 1981 (Callin). *Early fall date*, August 23, 1980 (Callin).

Page 157

SONG SPARROW *Melospiza melodia*

Third winter record, December 29, 1982 (Hiebert).

Acknowledgements

This manuscript was reviewed by and brought up-to-date by *Frank H. Brazier, Ronald R. Hooper, Alice Laing, Maurice Lindgren, Alan Mlazgar, *John Nelson and R. Lorne Scott. Additional observers who contributed records obtained since publication of Manley's book include: *Chris G. Adam, Ken Ashdown, Dudley Barnett, David Chaskavich, Errol Cochrane, Ethel Cockwill, Bernard de Vries, Carman Dodge, Fred Dunk, Jr., *S. Fitzgerald, Stuart Golly, Wayne Harris, Derek Harrison, Don Hayward, Selma Hiebert, *Dale Hjertaas, Fred Hudell, Annette Isabel, *Robert Kreba, *Fred Lahrman, Marge Leader, Kay and Maurice Lindgren, Gibby and Jack Lowe, *Bob Luterbach, Larry McCullough, Ken Messner, John Most, Betty Mundy, John Norman, Elsie Pattullo, Harold Perkins, Enola Rak, Eva Risinger, Lawrence Robillard, Lorne Rowell, Bill Russon, Joan Scott, Hugh and Wanda Stueck, Marg Thompson, Bob Turner, Don Weidl, Steffan Widstrand, and Jim Yanko. (*denotes resident of Regina.)



Round Lake, Qu'Appelle Valley

Lorne Scott

REMARKS MADE BY MANLEY CALLIN

ON THE OCCASION OF THE BOOK-LAUNCHING, SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY SUMMER MEET, ROUND LAKE JUNE 6, 1980

They say confession is good for the soul, and I have a few confessions to make.

1. I am not used to speaking and generally avoid it, so you can expect an absolute minimum of quantity and quality.

2. The book shows dates of 1857-1979 — one hundred and twenty-two years. This is not really my age — I am not a day over 100.

3. Speaking of time — the completion of this project has taken so long that I began to wonder whether the date was 1857 B.C. or 1857 A.D.

4. I must also confess to four bad habits:

a) I smoke

b) I drink

c) I am a girl-watcher

d) I am a chronic bird-watcher. In fact, my doctor has diagnosed my bird-watching as a "terminal" case!

5. All of these things have taken their toll. Therefore I am suffering from an energy crisis — which, of course, is the "in" thing nowadays. I will not be able to cover the ground today that many of you can.

6. I will be receiving a lot of credit to which I am not entitled. As you can see, many observers have contributed records, but I am thinking especially of the tremendous amount of work that Stuart and Mary Houston did. Stuart compiled the historical records, and acted as prodder and editor. Mary typed the manuscript in 1967 and 1979. They should be receiving hearty and bountiful congratulations.

End of confessions. Now for a bit of miscellaneous information.

1. I have been coming to Round Lake for 46 years — with few exceptions, we

have made an annual one-day visit each year since 1933 — it has always been very interesting (see p.33 of *Birds of the Qu'Appelle*, 1857-1979).

2. Depending on weather and the areas covered, one may expect anywhere from 75 to 100 species in one day at this time of year.

3. There are many special species that are more likely to be found here than in the parklands above. Three stand out as characteristic of the valley — the Veery, Rufous-sided Towhee and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Nine more northern species, twelve water birds, nine raptors, the Ruffed Grouse and fifteen song birds, are listed on pages 24 and 25 of the book as regular in the valley but rare or absent in the parklands above.

I hope you see and hear many of these special birds in your field trips this weekend.

Thank you.

EDIBLE WILD PLANTS AND HERBS

Dandelions — two leaves per day provide enough vitamins for a person
— roots roasted add nutrients to coffee

— blossoms can be used for making wine, also roots and leaves

Nettles — young shoots steamed, like spinach, only richer

Sorrel — leaves used in soups
— classified as a troublesome weed, survives well in gardens; if seeds are not required clip seed stems

Mint — sauce from green leaves (for lamb)
— leaves dried for tea

Sage — seasoning for meats

All of the above can be grown in a garden. Requirements are six inches of topsoil and tender loving care.

These are a few examples of Nature's bounty. There is more, much more, awaiting the experimenter who has time to devote. — *Anthony Capusten*, 1139 River Street West, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. S6V 3A2

MUSHROOMS - 1985

The warm weather at the end of May brought the first Morels. These are a treat sauteed 3 to 5 minutes with little or no seasoning to enhance the natural flavor.

Mid June produced some Oyster Mushrooms (*Pleurotus* sp.) with a taste reminiscent of steak. There were also a few Edible Bolete (*Boletus edulis*) at their best in the button stage and cooked as soon as possible.

July and August were a time for Field Mushrooms, (Meadow Mushrooms, *Agaricus campestris*); this species has pinkish gills when young and is excellent in salads raw or cooked. Another treat is the Delicious Lactarius (*Lactarius deliciosus*), which is orange colored with a delicate taste.

September saw the beginning of a bumper crop of Honey Fungus, (*Armillaria mellea*) till frost terminated the season.

Where freezer space is available mushrooms may be blanched and frozen. An alternate is to dry and pulverize them. — *Anthony Capusten*, 1139 River Street West, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. S6V 3A2



Morel

Anthony Capusten

THE YELLOW LADY'S-SLIPPER VARIETIES IN SASKATCHEWAN AND WESTERN CANADA

VERNON L. HARMS, The W.P. Fraser Herbarium, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7N 0W0

Yellow Lady's-slippers are one of the more frequently encountered, familiar and attractive of Saskatchewan's larger native orchids in the southern half of the province. Unfortunately, there has been some confusion concerning the recognition and respective occurrences of the Large versus the Small Yellow lady's-slippers in Saskatchewan and Western Canada.

Formerly the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper in North America was recognised as *Cypripedium parviflorum* Salisb. and considered specifically distinct from the Large Yellow Lady's-slipper, *C. pubescens* Willd. Today, together with the more eastern *C. planipetala* (Fern.) Morris & Eames, as well as the Eurasian *C. calceolus* L. s. str., these are usually recognised as separate varieties of a single widespread species, for which the Linnaean name, *C. calceolus*, then becomes applicable according to priority rules. Under this concept, *C. calceolus* var. *parviflorum* (Salisb.) Fern. becomes the name for the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper, while *C. calceolus* var. *pubescens* (Willd.) Correll applies to the Large Yellow Lady's-slipper.

Some taxonomic confusion has been apparent involving the recognition and names of the two latter varieties, at least with respect to Saskatchewan and Western Canada. This can be attributed to a combination of the following reasons:

(1) sometimes authors of taxonomic references have not distinguished any taxonomic varieties within the broadly

accepted species *C. calceolus*;^{8 13 23}

(2) frequently all North American populations have been accepted together as only a single variety, but this separate from the Eurasian var. *calceolus*, with the epithet *pubescens*, ascribed to the total spectrum of North American populations^{1 5 7 11 22} (such usages by Breitung⁵ and Moss²² for Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively have sometimes been misinterpreted as referring to the Large Yellow Lady's-slipper — e.g. Scoggan's erroneous citation of Breitung⁵ as the supposed basis for the distribution of var. *pubescens* s. str. in Saskatchewan)²⁷

(3) the apparently erroneous attribution (reversal?), at least with respect to Western Canada, of the mapped geographical ranges of these two varieties in Luer's popular modern treatise on North American native orchids.¹⁸

Identification

The most consistent and useful criteria for separating the Small and Large varieties, based on the literature^{3 9 11 18 21 26 27} as well as on personal field and herbarium experiences, are presented in the following identification key (see fig. 1 for depiction of terminology used for floral and vegetative characters).

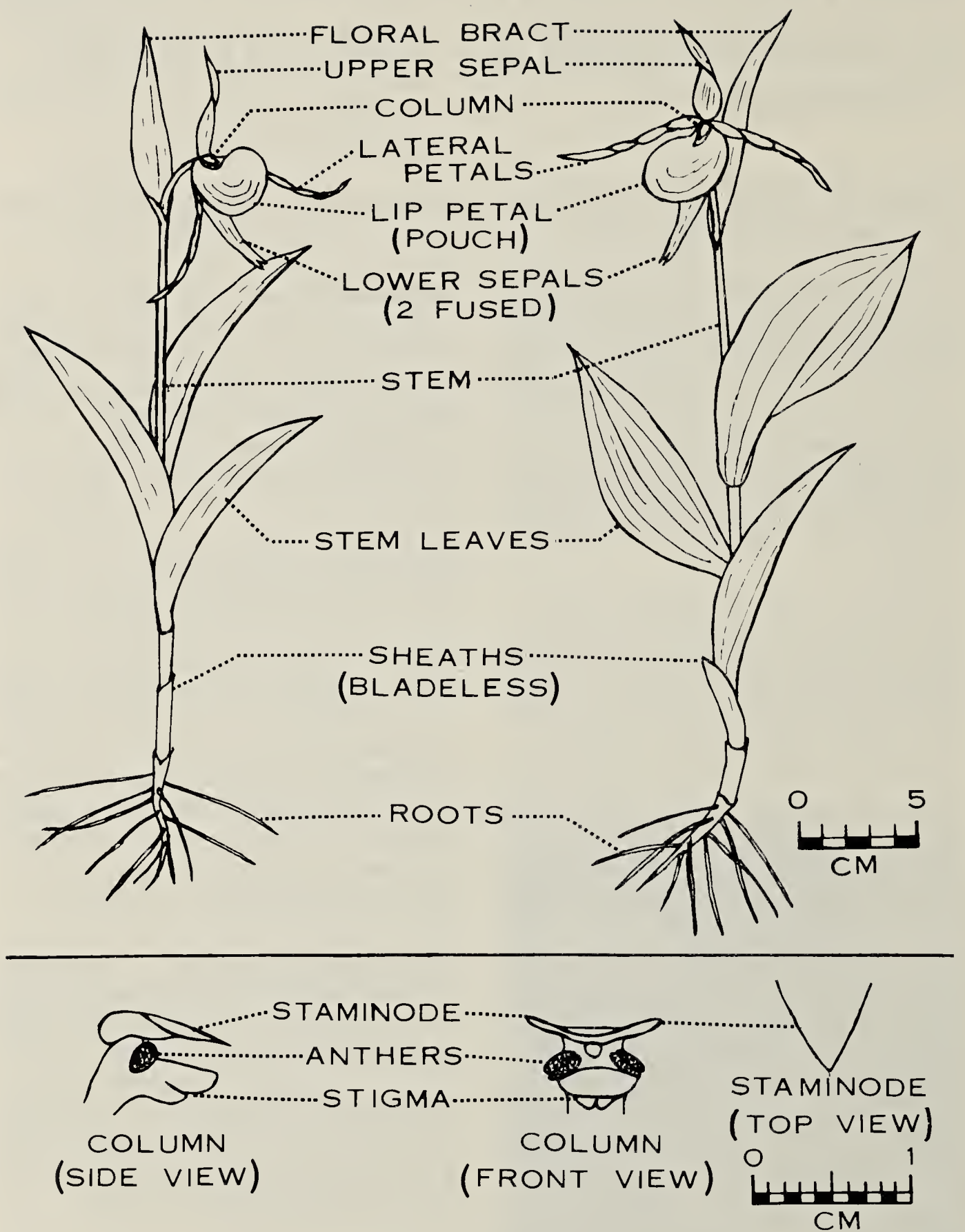


Figure 1. *Floral and vegetative characteristics of Yellow Lady's- slippers, Cypripedium calceolus*

IDENTIFICATION KEY TO THE VARIETIES OF *CYPRIPEDIUM CALCEOLUS*

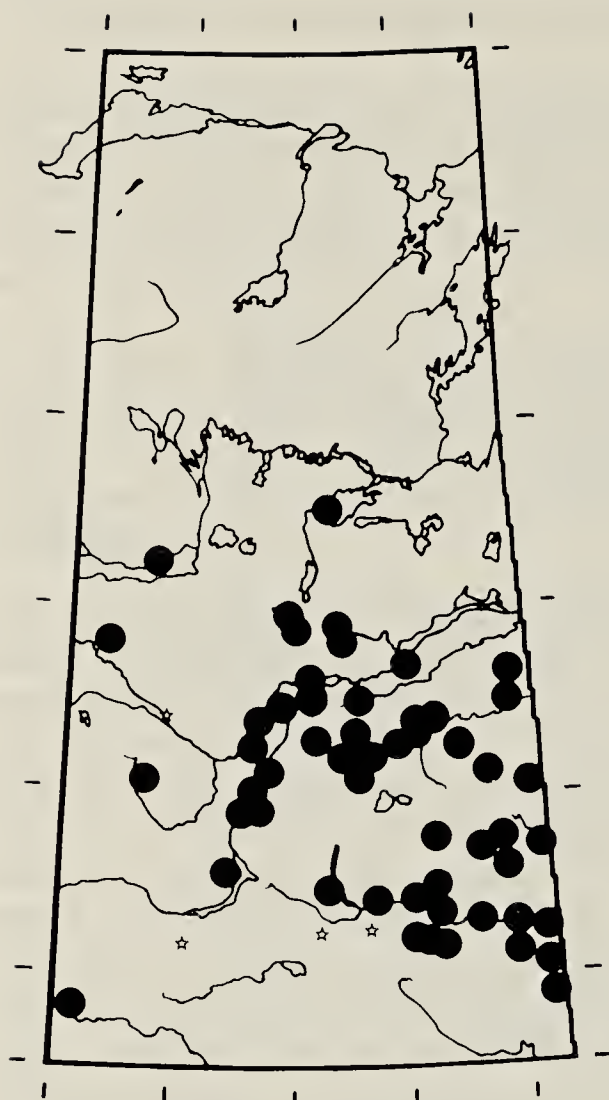
- 1a Lip-pouch (1.5-) 2-3 (-4) cm long, 1-2 (-2.5) cm broad, mostly bright yellow; sepals 2-4 (5) cm long, they and the lateral petals mostly brownish or purplish; darker than the next; lateral petals 3-5 cm long; plants to 4 (-5) dm all, with 3-4 (-5) stem leaves, the largest stem leaves 2-6 (-8) cm wide; staminode about 8 mm long; fresh flowers distinctly fragrantvar. *parviflorum*
- 1b Lip-pouch 3-5 (-7) cm long, 2-4 cm broad, mostly paler yellow; sepals (3-) 4-7 (-8) cm long, they and the lateral petals usually paler and yellowish- green; lateral petals (4-) 5-7 (-9) cm long; plants to 7 dm tall, with 4-6 stem leaves, the largest stem leaves 4-10 (-12) cm wide; staminode about 11 mm long; fresh flowers only indistinctly fragrantvar. *pubescens*

Since some of the key characters are overlapping to a degree, they need to be used in combination rather than stressed singly. Such is hardly unusual or unexpected when distinguishing varieties; in fact, if the character- distinctions were consistently sharp and unequivocal, the respective groups would be better recognised as separate species. Of the above key characters, leaf width and plant height seem especially plastic ones subject to environmental modification, and as a result only toward their upper extremes are they helpful in distinguishing plants of var. *pubescens* (i.e. smaller and narrower leaved specimens should not be excluded from the latter variety on these bases alone). The floral part measurements are those for mature flowering stages, the numbers in parentheses representing unusual extremes.

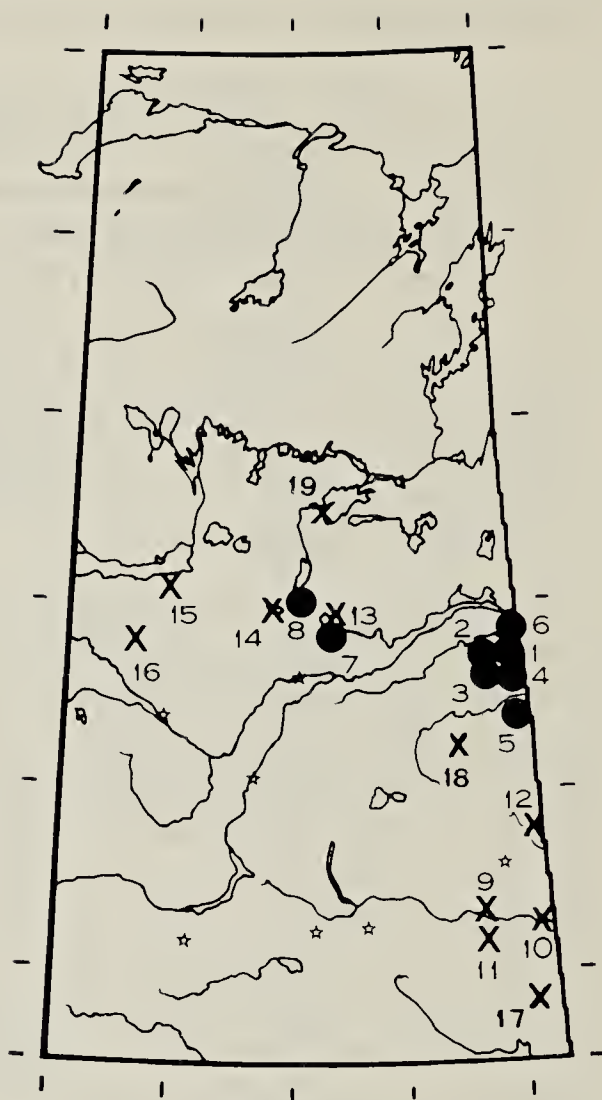
Distribution

The Small Yellow Lady's-slipper is relatively widespread throughout much of the southern half of Saskatchewan, except in the southwestern drier Short-grass Prairie Zone. It is characteristic of moist shore-woods and spring-fed wooded ravines in the Grassland and Aspen Parkland zones, and of the above habitats, plus other wet woods and bog/fen habitats, across the Southern Boreal Forest (Mixed-wood) zone. Only in Aspen Parkland and the deciduous-wooded Qu'Appelle Valley does it appear to be fairly frequent. Elsewhere, col-

onies seem rather uncommon to even rare. It remains unrecorded in Saskatchewan from the Northern Boreal Forest zone or on the Canadian Precambrian Shield. The map of figure 2a shows the voucher-documented distribution of the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper in Saskatchewan, and that of Figure 3a its known range throughout Western Canada and the immediately adjacent United States, with information on the non- Saskatchewan distributions of the latter based on various literatures sources.^{15 20 23 24 26 27 28} The locality dots on the Saskatchewan distribution map (Fig. 2a) are based only on verified herbarium specimens (in SASK, USAS, FGH, DFH, SCS, DAO, and CAN), so the apparent gaps could merely represent artifacts of collecting that readers may help to fill in with localities known to them. It should be noted that for plants, sight reports alone, lacking documentation by voucher specimens filed in a recognised herbarium, are always regarded as unverified records. A recent significant range extension for the province was Ledingham's report of this orchid from the Saskatchewan Cypress Hills, where it was previously unrecorded.^{16 4 6 10 13} The transcontinental var. *parviflorum* ranges westward from Saskatchewan to the upper Fraser River Valley, British Columbia, and northwestward to northwestern British Columbia to Great Bear Lake and the MacKenzie River in the Northwest Territories to the Ogilvie Mountains (north of Dawson) in Yukon



A. **var. PARVIFLORUM**



B. **var. PUBESCENS
and intermediates**

Figure 2. The recorded (voucher documented) distributions of the varieties of Yellow Lady's-slippers in Saskatchewan: a. Small Yellow Lady's-slipper, *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflorum* (solid circles). b. Large Yellow Lady's-slipper, *C. c.* var. *pubescens* (solid circles), and purported varietal intermediates (X). Numbers on map correspond to the collection localities as cited in the text.

Territory and to the Bettles River on the south slope of the Brooks Range in Alaska.^{15 24 8 12} Breitung suggested that, if segregated, the Saskatchewan plants of this species would belong to var. *parviflorum*.⁵ Boivin concurred by recognising only the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper (*C.c.* var. *parviflorum*) in Saskatchewan and westward, indicating that the more eastern var. *pubescens* extended to only as far west as southern Manitoba.^{2 3} This conclusion appears to have been justified at that time based on those specimens in SASK and USAS personally annotated by B. Boivin in 1957, and by the pre-1979 collections represented

in Ottawa herbaria (DAO & CAN), as verified by the present author.

The Large Yellow Lady's-slipper, *C. c.* var. *pubescens*, has subsequently been documented for Saskatchewan where it has been collected in the Pasquia Hills (De Vries, B., pers. corr.), the Porcupine Hills and Carrot River Valley, and near Montreal and Candle Lakes (Clark, J., pers. comm.).¹⁴

The relatively few collections substantiating the locality records for the Large Yellow Lady's slipper in Saskatchewan are briefly listed below, along with dates,

collectors, collecting numbers and herbaria where filed. (The herbarium acronyms mostly follow international usage: SASK = Fraser Herbarium, University of Saskatchewan, USAS = University of Regina, SCS = Swift Current Canada Agriculture Station, FQH = Fort Qu'Appelle Herbarium, DFH = Donald F. Hooper's private herbarium, DAO = Biosystematics Research Institute, Canada Agriculture, Ottawa and CAN = National Museum of Canada.) The numbers in the list below correspond directly to the numbered localities on the Saskatchewan distribution map (Fig. 2b).

The large Yellow Lady's-slipper, reportedly, is characteristic of drier fresh or mesic woodlands rather than moist to wet woods, shores and bog/fen habitats as is the Small Yellow Lady's-sipper. While this supposed habitat distinction seems somewhat upheld by Saskatchewan collections, it hardly represents a clear separation, partly because the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper occupies such a broad moisture spectrum here by occurring often in fresh-mesic shore woods as well as in wetter habitats.

The maps show the voucher-documented distribution of the Large

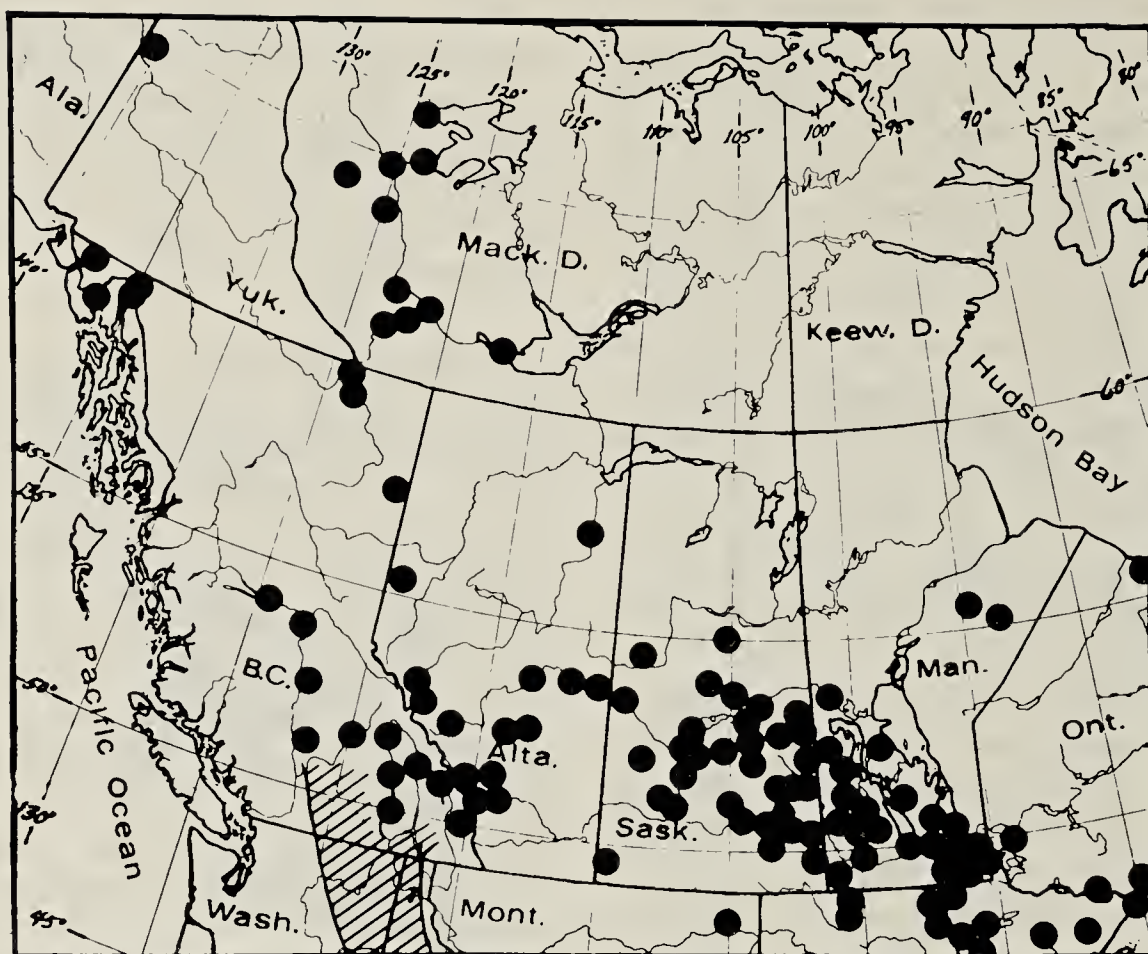
Yellow Lady's-slipper in Saskatchewan (Fig. 2b), and its known range throughout Western Canada and the immediately adjacent United States (Fig. 3b); the non-Saskatchewan distributions of the latter are based on a variety of literature references.^{20 26 27 28}

At least some intermediate plants, if not even a general zone of intergradation, might be expected between any varieties of the same species where their ranges meet or coincide. The apparent "hybrids" (i.e. intermediates) between the varieties *parviflorum* and *pubescens*, identified by the author for Saskatchewan, are indicated by an X on the Saskatchewan and Western Canada distribution maps for var. *pubescens* (figures 2b and 3b). Those specimens identified as varietal 'intermediates' revealed some but not all flower characters distinctly within the morphological range for var. *pubescens*. The collection localities for the accepted "intermediates" (other than at sites where they occurred together with "good" var. *pubescens*) are listed below, numbered here to correspond to the numbered localities mapped (Fig. 2b).

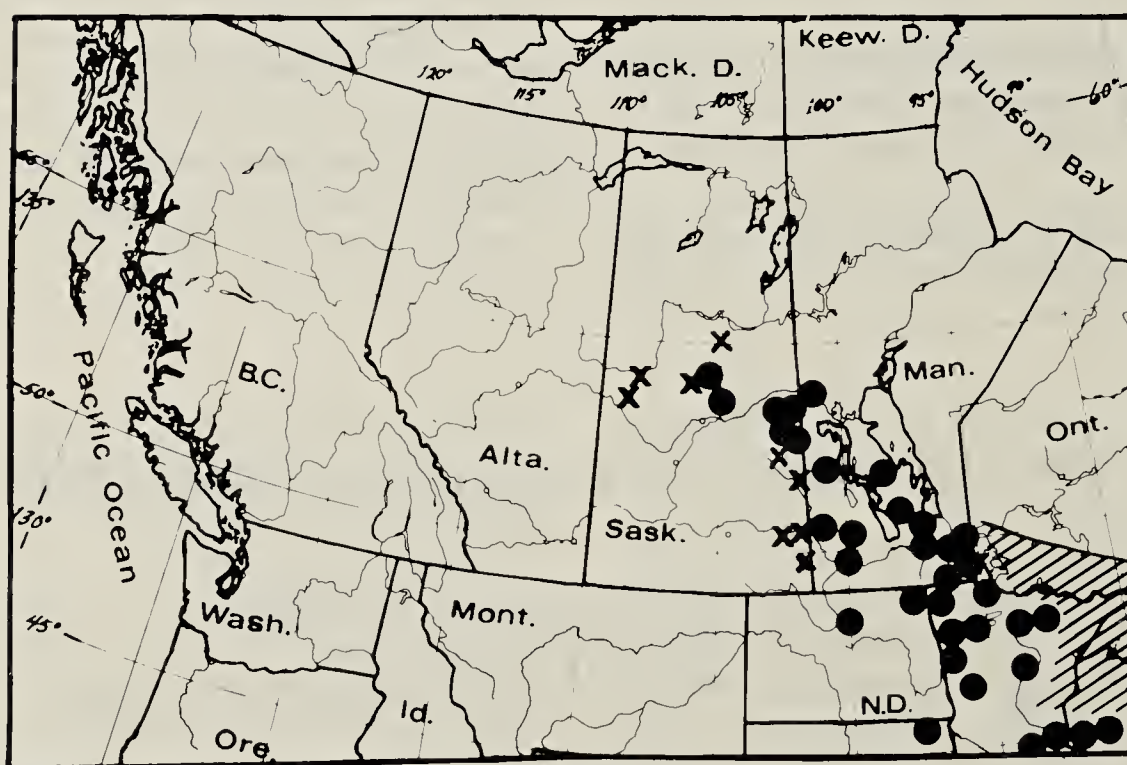
SASKATCHEWAN RECORDS OF THE LARGE YELLOW LADY'S-SLIPPER

Pasquia Hills:

1. Ootosquen Road, 26 June 1974, B. De Vries 3017.74 (FQH)
2. Rice River, 26 June 1974, B. De Vries 3018.74 (FQH)
3. Fir River Road, w of Mile 13, 7 July 1981, V.L. Harms, D.F. Hooper, P. Sky & L. Baker 29,410 (SASK, DFH)
4. Chemong Creek along Chemong Siding Road, 8 July 1981, V.L. Harms, D.F. Hooper, P. Sky & L. Baker 29,487 (SASK.) Porcupine Hills:
5. N Armit River, 6 km w-sw of Armit, 27 June 1983, V.L. Harms, D.F. Hooper & L. Baker 31,910 (SASK, DFH) Carrot River Valley:
6. E of Murphy Lake near Sask.-Man. border, 21 July 1984, V.L. Harms, D.F. Hooper & L. Baker 33,148A (SASK) Central (Southern Boreal)Saskatchewan:
7. Candle Lake, 3 km s, 29 June 1983, Joyce & Russel Clark 107 (SASK)
8. Nikek Lake, s of Montreal Lake, 20 June 1982, Joyce Olsen & Russel Clark 102 (SASK)



A. **var. PARVIFLORUM**



B. **var. PUBESCENS
and intermediates**

Figure 3. The recorded distribution of the Yellow Lady's-slipper varieties in western Canada and the adjacent United States: a. Small Yellow Lady's-slipper, *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflorum* (solid circles). b. Large Yellow Lady's-slipper, *C. c.* var. *pubescens* (solid circles) and, for Saskatchewan only, the purported varietal intermediates (X). Hatched areas on the maps indicate general geographical ranges reported in the literature for which more precise information for locality dots was unavailable.

The distributional pattern formed by the recorded, Saskatchewan localities of the Large Yellow Lady's Slipper (see figs. 2b, 3b) corresponds to the apparent 'migration route' of various other eastern species, subspecies and varieties that reach their northwesternmost extent in the series of uplands — viz. Riding Mountain (in Manitoba), Duck Mountain, Porcupine Hills, Pasquia Hills and Bug Hills — that together comprise the Manitoba Escarpment (= Prairie Coteau sensu Boivin³), bordering the southwestern shores of the former postglacial Lake Agassiz. The expanded distributional pattern in Saskatchewan formed by adding the localities of our recognized varietal "intermediates" to those of the "good" var. *pubescens* (see figs. 2b, 3b), reveals the not overly surprising picture of a

westward extension of the Large Yellow Lady's- slipper's influence, if not actually verified presence in "pure form" along the Assiniboine, Qu'Appelle and Pipestone River valleys, as well as along the Manitoba Escarpment Uplands. It extends westward from the latter nearly across the province, to Prince Albert National Park, Brightsand Lake, and Meadow Lake. The latter, more western Saskatchewan stations in the Southern Boreal Forest Zone may at first glance seem "out of scope." But interestingly these all fall within the narrow belt of the postulated maximum northwestward extension of the eastern deciduous forest into Saskatchewan along the south side of the former post-glacial Lake Agassiz and westward essentially across the province during the earlier moister part of

SASKATCHEWAN COLLECTIONS INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN THE SMALL AND LARGE YELLOW LADY'S-SLIPPER VARIETIES

Qu'Appelle River Valley and south:

9. Stockholm, 4 mi. s; 24 June 1954, G.W. Selleck 63 (SASK)

10. Qu'Appelle River, 7.5 mi. n of Rocanville, 17 June 1971, N.A. Skoglund 492A (SASK) 11.

Pipestone River Valley, 10 mi. s of Broadview, 18 June 1964, G.F. Ledingham, Roney and Zacharius 3774 (USAS)

17. Wawota, 13 mi. se, July 1983, Kay Kennet s.n. (in part) (SASK 76158) East-Central Saskatchewan:

18. Carragana, 5.5 km w, 26 June 1983, V.L. Harms & L. Baker (31,830 SASK) Duck Mountain:

12. Madge Lake, Duck Mountain Prov. Park, 20 June 1973, V.L. Harms 19,771 (SASK). A sight record from this locality by B. de Vries 15 July 1982 would possibly have belonged here (De Vries, B., pers. corr.). Central (Southern Boreal) Saskatchewan:

13. Candle Lake, 2 July 1963, J.K. Jeglum 668-63 (SASK 39487)

14. Prince Albert National Park, 21 June 1941, W.P. Fraser s.n. (SASK 7287-A)

19. Lac La Ronge, 1 July 1948, G.W. Ledingham 48-417-b (in part) (USAS) West-Central (Southern Boreal) Saskatchewan:

15. Meadow Lake, 6-7-54, Wm. MacNeill S5405 (SASK)

16. Brightsand Lake, 26 June 1956. Robert Connell s.n. (SASK 26715 & 26716)

the post-Wisconsin "Hypsithermal (or Climatic Optimum) Period" about 8000-6000 years ago.^{17 25}

The closely adjacent Manitoba records, as well as our Saskatchewan "intermediate specimens," suggest that the Large Yellow Lady's-slipper might be expected and should be looked for, at least in the lower Qu'Appelle, Pipestone and Assiniboine River Valleys, and in the Duck Mountain Provincial Park regions of easternmost Saskatchewan. It should also be looked for westward across the southernmost part of the Southern (Mixed-wood) Boreal Forest and northern Aspen Parkland zones.

The Large Yellow Lady's-slipper, if taxonomically segregated, unquestionably deserves a rare plant status for Saskatchewan, while the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper would not so qualify under the usual criteria for such designation within a province because it is both too widespread and often occurs in sizeable local colonies.¹⁹ Nonetheless, on a continental scale, the Yellow Lady's-slipper (often with varieties not distinguished) has been accorded a rare plant status in most other provinces and states, and is also protected by the Convention on the international Trade of Endangered species (CITES).¹

Acknowledgements

Numerous persons over the years have cumulatively added to our knowledge concerning the Yellow Lady's-slipper orchids in Saskatchewan. Deserving special acknowledgement have been the notable contributions during the last dozen years of the following individuals: Joyce and Russel Clark, Bernard de Vries, Donald F. Hooper, Kristal Kennett, George F. Ledingham and N. Andy Skoglund.



Large Yellow Lady's-slipper

Wayne Harris

¹ ARGUS, G.W. 1978. List of Canadian flora affected by CITES. CITES Report No. 4, Canadian Wildl. Serv., Environment Canada. 14 pp.

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UNIVERSITY OF REGINA TO PURCHASE HERBARIUM COLLECTION

The Fort Qu'Appelle Herbarium started as a private Herbarium in 1956 with collections from the Qu'Appelle Valley. By 1959 the vascular plant collection had expanded to 2,000 specimens. A Cryptogamic Herbarium was started in 1961 which to date has about 2,000 of mosses and lichens. By 1973 the Herbarium had 6,000 fully documented vascular specimens stored in cabinets. It was at that time that a submission was made under sponsorship of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Fort Qu'Appelle Branch, for recognition as an International Herbarium. This was granted in 1974 and the Fort Qu'Appelle Herbarium (FQH) was listed in the *Index Herbariorum* Part I, the Herbaria of the World.

To date the vascular plant collection has reached the 10,000 specimens representing as its main component collections from the Qu'Appelle Valley and other parts in Saskatchewan. Other collections are from northwest Ontario, southwest Alberta and the Canadian Arctic, with lesser collections from western Manitoba, British Columbia and Europe.

Voucher specimens from botanical studies in the Hasbala Lake Region in northeast Saskatchewan, the Qu'Appelle Valley, Abandoned Railroads in southeast Saskatchewan and specialized plant studies in Saskatchewan as well as botanical investigations in the Cypress Hills and Writing-on-Stone Provincial

Park in Alberta, are deposited in the Herbarium.

First collections for Saskatchewan such as: *Cicer arietinum*, *Malva sylvestris* var. *mauritiana*, *Lathyrus sativus*, *Alyssum alyssoides*, *Delphinium bicolor* f. *DeVriesii*, and *Epilobium alpinum* a first for the Cypress Hills complex with additional first collections for Canada, Alberta and British Columbia as well as rare plants, adds to the scientific value of this Herbarium.

To house and maintain the Herbarium has become increasingly difficult. For this and other reasons the entire Herbarium was for sale to the University of Regina to be permanently housed in their Herbarium.

To this purpose the University of Regina has set up a "Herbarium Fund" to receive donations for which tax charity donations receipts will be given. It is hoped that in this way the acquisition of the Fort Qu'Appelle Herbarium becomes a reality, as it will increase the scientific value of the existing Herbarium leading to a better understanding of our native Flora.

A plea for donations is always a sensitive task, but friends of the Herbarium can understand the difficulties to move and permanently house the collection and any amount will greatly be appreciated.

BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS AT THE PRAIRIE WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

DOUGLAS ADAMS, 401-108th Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7N 1R1

Five years ago (1980) I saw my first Black Widow Spider in an abandoned gopher hole, located 1 km from the site of the Prairie Wildlife Interpretation Centre. The original occupants had dug into the side of a gently sloping hill, sparsely covered by Spear Grass and Buffalo Grass. Strands of silk radiated downwards from the top lip of the hole. The shiny, black spider was clinging to the underside of the irregular-shaped web. It's 13 mm body was suspended between long, slender, outstretched legs. The spider's crimson red hour-glass marking glowed in the light of the late evening sun.

The Black Widow presented the staff at the centre with a rare opportunity to observe the habits of this much maligned and poorly understood spider. I did my best to stop by and see the 8-legged celebrity whenever I was scheduled to work outdoors. On 18 July I was forced to make an urgent visit to the burrow.

A colleague had removed 2 of 4 silk sacs hanging in the spider's web, and unaware that the web belonged to the Black Widow or that the globular, cream-coloured sacs were egg cases, had carried the sacs back to the centre to have them identified.

The larger case, 1.5 cm in diameter, was home for at least 100 spiderlings. The immature spiders were about to undergo their first molt before leaving the egg case. The smaller egg case, 1.0 cm across, protected a large number of small, white eggs.

The honour of reuniting the spider and her offspring was bestowed on me. The

female was hiding under the roof of the hole while the two remaining egg cases were left unguarded near the top of the web. Balancing the sacs on the end of a stick, I placed them several inches below the pair hanging in the web. I sat down to wait for the spider to appear from her hiding place. The wait was not long. Sixty seconds after the sacs were in place, the female descended. She quickly scooped up the returned egg cases, carried them up the web and then deposited them alongside the other cases.

I was astonished by how quickly the spider reacted. In only 60 seconds, the female identified and located the egg cases. Finding the sacs would have been simple enough. The spider would have received tactile messages from two sources: the pressure of the sacs on the web; and, the movement of the spiderlings inside the egg case. But how did the spider know the sacs were egg cases? Association by sight can be ruled out because Black Widows have poor eyesight. A possible explanation is that air-borne chemicals may have been released from the damaged silk cases. The female detected the chemicals and took appropriate action to retrieve her lost eggs and spiderlings.

By the end of August of 1980, one of the offspring had inherited mother's estate. On the same hillside, sibling spiders had discovered other ground squirrel holes suitable for winter occupancy. A large percentage of the new generation would not survive the cold winter months ahead. But a few individuals would awaken in the spring to complete their life cycle.



Black Widow Spider

Doug Adams

EDGAR A.W. SULLIVAN (1887 - 1984)



Edgar Sullivan was born in Watford, Ontario, 29 August 1887. He attended teachers' college at Forest, Ontario, and graduated in 1906. He then taught at Ouimet, Ontario, in Manitoba, at South Regina and Brockton, Saskatchewan. In 1909 he homesteaded at Brockton, Saskatchewan and ploughed his land with oxen.

In 1949 he retired and moved to Broderick, and then to Dundurn in 1950, where he worked fervently on his many hobbies. He collected stamps, coins, rocks and arrowheads, and made many beautiful and useful objects from native woods. His collection of 700 kinds of wood was given to the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Edgar Sullivan was a keen observer of nature. He collected many plants,

especially grasses and sedges, which he donated to Dr. G. Ledingham to be preserved in the University of Regina herbarium.

In 1974, at 87 years of age, he began collecting butterflies. His failing eyesight made it difficult for him to pin his specimens. In spite of this, he proceeded with his collection from year to year. Many who begin a butterfly collection obtain swarms of specimens of the same species, but not many different kinds of butterflies. Edgar Sullivan was an exception: he collected 53 species from the Dundurn area, showing his ability to watch for different kinds. He brought or sent his specimens each year to the Provincial Museum for identification from 1976 until 1979. The following is a list of the species of butterflies he collected.



White Admiral

Chris Adam



Monarch

Andrius Valadka

Butterflies collected near Dundurn, Saskatchewan, by Edgar Sullivan *

Dundurn is situated 32 km south of Saskatoon. The area is mainly native prairie and cultivated fields with some aspen bluffs.

Hesperiidae

- Silver Spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*) (Raised from Wild Licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*))
- Northern Cloudy Wing (*Thorybes pylades*)
- Dreamy Dusky Wing (*Erynnis icelus*)
- Persius Dusky Wing (*Erynnis persius*)
- Checkered Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*)
- Garita Skipper (*Oarisma garita*)
- Assiniboia Skipper (*Hesperia comma assiniboia*)
- Tawny-edged Skipper (*Polites themistocles*)
- Long Dash (*Polites mystic*)
- Peck's Skipper (*Polites coras*)
- Roadside Skipper (*Amblyscirtes vialis*)

Papilionidae

- Canadian Tiger Swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus canadensis*)

Pieridae

- Western Checkered White (*Pontia occidentalis*)
- Cabbage White (*Artogeia rapae*)
- Olympia Marble (*Euchloe olympia*) northernmost Saskatchewan record
- Western Common Sulphur (*Colias philodice eriphyle*)
- Orange Sulphur (*Colias erytheme*)

Lycaenidae

- Great Copper (*Gaeides xanthoides*)
- Bronze Copper (*Hyllolycaena hyllus*)
- Purplish Copper (*Epidemia helloides*)
- Coral Hairstreak (*Harkenclenus titus*)
- Acadian Hairstreak (*Satyrium acadica*)
- Hoary Elfin (*Incisalia polios*)
- Western Tailed Blue (*Everes amyntula*)
- Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*)
- Silver Blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*)

- Melissa Blue (*Lycaeides melissa*)
- Greenish Blue (*Plebejus saepiolus*)
- Arctic Blue (*Agriades franklinii*)

Nymphalidae

- Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*)
- Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*)
- Aphrodite (*Speyeria aphrodite*)
- Callippe Fritillary (*Speyeria callippe calgariana*)
- Northwestern Silverspot (*Speyeria atlantis lais*)
- Meadow Fritillary (*Clossiana bellona*)
- Carlota Checkerspot (*Charidryas gorgone carlota*)
- Northern Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes pascoensis*)
- Tawny Crescent (*Phyciodes pratensis batesii*)
- Satyr Angle Wing (*Polygonia satyrus*)
- Green Comma (*Polygonia faunus*) This species is rare south of the mixed forest.
- Gray Comma (*Polygonia progne*)
- Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
- Milbert's Tortoise-shell (*Aglaia milberti*)
- Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
- Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
- White Admiral (*Basilarchia arthemis*)

Satyridae

- Ringlet (*Coenonympha inornata*)
- Common Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*)
- Red-disked Alpine (*Erebia discoidalis*)
- Common Alpine (*Erebia epipsodea*)
- Varuna Arctic (*Oeneis uhleri varuna*)
- Alberta Arctic (*Oeneis alberta*)

Danaidae

- Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

— Ronald R. Hooper, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Wascana Park, Regina, Saskatchewan. S4P 3V7

* The scientific names used here (except in genus *Phyciodes*) are from *A catalogue/checklist of the Nearctic butterflies North of Mexico* by Lee D. Miller and F. Martin Brown (1981).

EVENING GROSBEAK KILLS HOUSE SPARROW*

ETHEL COCKWILL, Fort Qu'Appelle,
Saskatchewan. SOG 1SO

On 5 January 1982, my husband and I observed what we consider to be rather strange behaviour in the bird world. Every year we maintain several bird feeders in our yard in Fort Qu'Appelle. Our regular winter visitors are chickadees, nuthatches, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Evening Grosbeaks, Blue Jays and House Sparrows, with other transients from time to time.

On this particular day I had just come in from replenishing the feeders when we noticed a female Evening Grosbeak fluttering in the snow in the middle of the lawn. Our first thought was that it had hit the window, which is not uncommon, but as we watched we realized that it had a sparrow down and was beating it with the wings and pecking it on the head and neck. This went on for several minutes, until the sparrow appeared to be dead. At this point the grosbeak picked it up and flew away with it. There were no other marks in the snow, just the one hole, so the grosbeak must have either carried the sparrow there or forced it down from the air. They do feed together on the feeding tray and occasionally a grosbeak will chase a sparrow away, but one has never been so vicious as in this episode. Our late friend and neighbour, the well-known birdwatcher and author, Manley Callin, thought this was unusual enough to be reported.

THIRD SASKATCHEWAN SIGHT RECORD OF LEAST TERN**

MAURICE and KAY LINDGREN, Fort
Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. SOG 1SO

On 27 July 1982, at Rowan's Ravine on the east side of Last Mountain Lake, we observed two small terns feeding actively along the marina from 7 to 7.30 p.m. They were from 25 to 125 m from us, and looked exactly like the adults pictured in Robbins' *A Guide to Field Identification, Birds of North America*. At a distance, further out on the lake, were numbers of both Common and Forster's Terns, obviously larger in size and with very different, forked tails. The smaller terns nearby had flared but not deeply forked tails, more like a "fish tail." Neither bird was seen the following day.

We returned to the same place 24 June 1984, also at 7 p.m. This time there was a single small tern, flying back and forth. During about 30 minutes it made only four dives into the water. This bird was from 50 to 125 meters distant. We were even more certain of the identification than we had been in 1982.

* From the files of the late Manley Callin

** The above item was found in Callin's files. Rowan's Ravine is of course west of the area covered by Callin's book. Callin noted that the nearest known nesting site of Least Terns was a colony on an island in the Missouri River near Bismarck, where Robert N. Randall found five nests with eggs on July 2, 1972 (Houston, *American Birds* 26:869-872, October 1972).

WESTERN SANDPIPER IN SASKATCHEWAN: FIRST CONFIRMED RECORD

CHRISTOPHER J. ESCOTT, 271 Sylvian Way, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7H 5G1



The rain was pelting through from the northeast in short showers on 19 September 1985, when I visited the mudflats north of Radisson. These flats are about 1 km north of the town and straddle Highway 340. Radisson Lake, which is a waterfowl refuge, is 1.6 km farther west. The flats on the east side of the road were mainly mud with widespread grassy tufts, a band of shallow water along the south edge and a narrow pebbly beach. On the west side of the road the bulk of the slough was open water, but the arm at the north end beside the road was wet mud.

A Peregrine Falcon had just flown through and only ducks and a family of Ross' Geese were in evidence at the west

end of the slough. Within minutes a small flock of peeps settled on the mud immediately beside the west edge of the road. I checked them with binoculars noting one rather brown little bird with a fair bit of streaking on the chest, a rather long and slender bill, and yellow legs (a Least Sandpiper); three greyer little birds with clear white chest, short chunky bills and black legs (Semipalmated Sandpipers); and a fifth bird, a bit larger than the Semipalmateds but similar in coloring, with a long heavy downcurving bill and black legs.

I knew immediately that I was looking at a Western Sandpiper. I put my scope on the bird to get a closer look. There was a brisk breeze blowing in my face,

with intermittent raindrops, and the day was overcast so light conditions were not optimal. I was only about 25 m from the bird, however, so had an excellent view. The legs were black, but I was unable to tell if the feet were webbed. The bill was proportionately longer than that of the Least Sandpiper and thick at the base like those of the Semipalmateds. It appeared to droop, but the impression was one of decurvature rather than a drooping tip. The underside of the bird was clear white, with only a shade of pale grey on the chest and some streaking on the upper breast (i.e. at the sides). The primaries and secondaries were greyish brown with wide creamy fringes. The majority of the back feathers were similarly colored. The upper scapulars, however, were a rusty brown color with creamy edges, as were the back feathers immediately below the nape. The nape itself was paler. The crown and sides of the head were greyish brown, intermediate in color between primaries and scapulars, with the exception of a prominent white eyebrow and forehead. The overall impression was of a robust Semipalmated Sandpiper with one heck of a long bill.

Having confirmed the diagnostic field marks, I took a quick shot with the short lens that was on my camera at the time. As I hurried to mount a 1250 mm mirror lens for a close-up, (wouldn't you know it!) a truck went past and flushed all the birds. They had been probing in the mud along the edge of the open water. When flushed they flew across the road and settled on dryer mud beside the east edge of the highway. Camera ready, I drove slowly over and was on the verge of snapping the shutter when another vehicle drove the birds farther from the road but still on the east side. At that point I donned rubber boots, put camera on tripod and from about 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. I squelched around those mud flats observing and photographing the Western Sandpiper, sometimes from as close as 10 m.

On the east side of the road the birds were harder to spot because of the grassy tufts. The original small flock merged with another group which included three Semipalmated Plover, several more Semipalmated Sandpiper, a couple of Baird's Sandpipers and a couple more Least. The Western Sandpiper now began to show a preference for associating with the Semipalmated Plovers. For 3 hours the birds worked their way back and forth across the fairly firm mud, several times flying short distances. The Western Sandpiper was more of a prober than the other peeps which tended to peck at the mud. Finally the group flushed, and when last seen the Western Sandpiper was on the south shore of the east side slough in company with a small flock of Sanderlings and Baird's Sandpipers. That flock shortly took off, and a careful search of the area did not again turn up the Western Sandpiper.

The Western Sandpiper (WESA) breeds in northeastern Siberia, and northern and western Alaska. It winters along coastal areas from California and North Carolina to southern Peru and Surinam. Most of the population migrates along the Pacific coast, but small numbers occur regularly on Atlantic coastal mudflats.

In Canada the WESA is rare or uncommon everywhere except in British Columbia where it is a common coastal migrant. There are fewer than a dozen reports of WESA in the Maritimes known to the author, with all but one being fall records. In Quebec and Ontario this species is a regular fall and sporadic spring migrant in very small numbers. The author knows of only two published records for Manitoba, both spring reports from the Churchill area. Alberta, on the other hand, has some 20 published reports including a number of unconfirmed sightings; again, the majority of these are fall records.

There are no prior confirmed reports of WESA in Saskatchewan, supported by photograph or specimen, so until now the species has been considered hypothetical. The photographs taken near Radisson clearly show a Western Sandpiper. This was confirmed by Dr. Henri Ouellet of the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa who kindly examined the best slide and had no doubt about the identification of the bird as a Western Sandpiper. Previous sightings of this species in Saskatchewan (as known to the author) are:

- 1) spring 1968, more than once in Regina ⁴
- 2) 25 July 1974, 1 near Purdue ⁴
- 3) 30 May 1977, 4 northwest of Cather-wood Lake ⁴
- 4) 15 May 1978, 2 near Biggar ⁴
- 5) 18 May 1980, 1 at Moose Jaw ⁴
- 6) 15 May 1984, 2 near Saskatoon ¹
- 7) 16 May 1984, 2 near Regina ¹
- 8) 29 July 1984, 1 near Saskatoon ⁶
- 9) 25 August 1984, 1 near Saskatoon ²
- 10) 5, 6, 17 August 1985, 1 at Old Wives Lake ³

The long thick bill and rusty upper scapulars of the bird I saw were of classic proportions and made identification easy. In many cases individuals of this species have less color and/or shorter bills, and they become very difficult to separate from the Semipalmated Sandpiper. It is quite possible that the species occurs with greater regularity in Saskatchewan, even if only in small numbers, but is usually not recognised. The references below include the titles of several recent works which are of great benefit in trying to accurately identify this and other peep species.

The author gratefully acknowledges the guidance and assistance of Dr. H. Ouellet of the National Museum in Ottawa, who provided published record data and access to study skins for examination; and of Dr. J. B. Gollop of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Saskatoon, who reviewed this article prior to publication.

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THE GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA

PETER TAYLOR, P.O. Box 597, Pinawa, Manitoba. R0E 1L0



*Great black-backed Gull with Herring Gulls near Seven Sisters, Manitoba,
15 June 1985*

Dennis Fast

At about noon 15 June 1985, I was birding at Seven Sisters dam on the Winnipeg River (50° 7' N, 96° 1' W). About 2 km away, near the north shore of Natalie Lake, a swimming gull stretched its wings, and I got the impression that it was a dark-mantled bird. Bearing in mind that such impressions can be misleading, I pondered the long hike that would be necessary to check it out. However, the bird was then considerate enough to take flight, circle around the eastern end of the lake, then fly towards me and land near the Seven Sisters dump, where it was much more readily accessible.

It was indeed a dark-mantled gull, in adult plumage. It was resting in a bare field with about 50 Herring Gulls. Its flesh-coloured legs and very heavy yellow bill, with pronounced gonydeal angle and large, brilliant red spot, in-

dicated that it was a Great Black-backed Gull, and ruled out the Lesser Black-backed Gull.¹²

Two features of this bird — size and mantle colour — caused some initial confusion. Apart from the larger head and bill, the bird did not appear substantially larger than the biggest Herring Gulls. However, this is in accordance with recorded measurements of the two species.^{10 12} (Coincidentally, the first Minnesota record of the Great Black-backed Gull involved a small individual.³) There was significant contrast between the dark slate mantle and the black primaries; this was enhanced in strong sunlight, and was more noticeable when the bird was at rest than in flight. At certain angles, the mantle appeared brownish. Some field guides indicate that the Great Black-backed Gull's mantle is as black as the primaries. However, Grant's specialised

guide confirms the distinction in shade, and states that the brownish tone of the mantle is characteristic of faded adult summer plumage.¹² The size and mantle colour were thus fully consistent with a rather small Great Black-backed Gull, and there is no need to invoke the possibility of hybrid Herring X Black-backed ancestry.⁸

The remote possibility that this bird was a Western Gull (southern race), or even a Slaty-backed Gull, was finally eliminated by close inspection of the eyes and wingtip pattern. The eye-ring was red, and the irides were a darker yellow than the Herring Gulls'. All primaries were tipped with white, with relatively large white patches at the tips of the two outermost primaries in each wing.

The absence of any dusky feathers on the head, neck or tail, or any brown freckling (as opposed to the uniform brownish tone) of the mantle, or any dark markings on the bill, confirmed that this bird was in full adult plumage (i.e. at least fourth summer, as defined by Grant¹²).

The gull remained near the dump throughout the afternoon of 15 June, and was present again the following day. It was seen by about 10 experienced observers, and was photographed by Dennis Fast, Stewart Holohan and myself.

This is the fourth record of the Great Black-backed Gull in southern Manitoba, and the first of an adult. Three previous sightings of immature birds have been reported by experienced observers. A first-winter bird was seen by Stewart Holohan and John Christie at the Springfield dump, Winnipeg, 16 November 1980.¹⁶ A first-summer bird was observed by T. French and J. Van Os, and subsequently by many other birders, near Oak Hammock Marsh between 2 and 5 June 1982.¹¹ A second-summer bird was seen at Clandeboy Bay, at the southern end of Lake Manitoba, by Gor-

don Grief, Peter Hamel, George Holland and Rudolf Koes 25 May 1985 (Koes, pers. comm.). This species is a more frequent visitor to the Hudson Bay coast of northern Manitoba.^{1 10 17} According to Jehl and Smith (1970), it was first reported at Churchill by Mowat and Lawrie 25 May 1947, and "has become a rare but regular summer visitor in recent years."^{17 20}

The Great Black-backed Gull is primarily a bird of the North Atlantic.^{1 10} The number of wintering birds on the lower Great Lakes has increased greatly in the past 50 years, many of these birds originating from breeding colonies on the St. Lawrence estuary.² There are scattered nesting records from Lakes Huron and Ontario.^{1 2 10 21} However, this species remains a rarity on Lake Superior; for example, there are only six Minnesota records.^{3 6 7 13 14 15} The gull's breeding range on the East Coast has expanded southward in recent years, and it is increasing, although very rare, as a winter visitor to the Gulf Coast.⁵ There are recent records of individuals wandering west to Colorado (twice) and Montana, and there is a possible sighting for southern Saskatchewan.^{18 19 22 23}

The occurrence of four Great Black-backed Gulls, three of them in late spring, in southern Manitoba between 1980 and 1985, does not fall into any obvious regional pattern. The three Minnesota records within that period were all in mid-winter, as were the Colorado (1980, 1982) and Montana (1977) records. The unconfirmed Saskatchewan sighting was 9 May 1983, and is thus closer to the Manitoba pattern.²³

The most obvious explanation for the Manitoba sightings is that a few birds are wandering westward from the Great Lakes. It is possible that they are migrating to and from the Gulf Coast, but there are no records from the intervening States that might support this hypothesis. The pattern of occurrence in

Manitoba is rather similar to that of Glaucous, Iceland and Thayer's gulls — all Arctic-nesting species.^{4 9 24} This raises the possibility of an overland migration of Great Black-backed Gulls between the northern United States and Hudson Bay, or elsewhere in Arctic waters.

I am grateful to Rudolf F. Koes for information on the three records of immature gulls, and for helpful comments on the manuscript. I thank Stewart Holohan for additional information on measurements.

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ADDITIONAL CURLEW SANDPIPER RECORDS FROM MANITOBA

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Holohan reported sighting a Curlew Sandpiper at Oak Hammock Marsh 1 June 1981 which was supposedly the first Manitoba record (1983. *Curlew Sandpiper in Manitoba. Blue Jay* 41(4):205-207). We provide details of two additional records from Churchill which are, chronologically, the first and third records for the province.

On 29 May 1973, Brooks and M. Skeel found and photographed a Curlew Sandpiper at the ponds near the grain elevator. They observed the bird for 30 minutes while it foraged at the south edge of the southern-most pond. Copies of the photographs have been deposited in the Royal Ontario Museum and the National Museum of Natural Sciences. The bird was mottled in overall appearance and was a dull shade of red on the breast and head. If it was in full breeding plumage, it was likely a female.

The most recent record involved a bird seen by McRae and P.H. Sinclair 10 June 1983 as it did a quick "fly-by" of the Akudlik Marsh, 5 km east of Churchill. Several hours later, a group from the

Saskatchewan Natural History Society, led by Stan Shadick, saw the bird as it repeated another "fly-by." These were the only two sightings of this bird. This bird was almost certainly a male as its throat, neck and breast were bright red, similar to the breast colour of a female Red Phalarope, and showed no mottling or faint areas of colour. A detailed description of this individual is on file at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

A quick survey of the seasonal summaries published in *American Birds* shows that Curlew Sandpiper sightings in inland North America have increased dramatically in the past two decades. Although these are the only three records for the province so far, it seems likely that other individuals will be found periodically, especially if the amount of birdwatching along the Hudson Bay coast is increased.

We would like to thank Clive E. Goodwin, Stewart Holohan and J.E.H. Mason for their help in locating information for this note.

KING EIDER AT YELLOWKNIFE — DECEMBER 1983

KEVIN MCCORMICK, Habitat Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, N.W.T., X1A 2N5 and ROBERT G. BROMLEY, Waterfowl Ecologist, N.W.T. Department of Renewable Resources, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9

On 12 December 1983 a juvenile female King Eider was picked up near the airport at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The bird was flying overhead when attacked and knocked to the ground by two Common Ravens (*M. Marion pers. comm.*). The eider, which weighed 1.2 kg, was in good physical condition. The bird was collected and the skin was preserved and donated to the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa.

In Canada, the King Eider breeds throughout the arctic islands and along the mainland coast from northern Yukon to southern Hudson Bay. It is apparently uncommon in northern Quebec and Labrador.^{4 5} The breeding range is occupied by both western and eastern populations which either meet or have a zone of overlap at about longitude 100°-110° W.⁵ The western population winters north to the limit of open water in the Bering Sea and south to the Aleutian Islands whereas the eastern population winters primarily from southern Greenland to Newfoundland.^{4 5}

The western population migrates around Alaska along the coastline whereas most of the eastern population reaches southern Greenland via water routes (Lancaster Sound or Hudson Strait) around Baffin Island. Dates of departure from breeding areas vary greatly. Adult birds, including post-incubating females, depart before becoming flightless but do not go all the way to the wintering areas. Birds arrive, at both wintering areas, during late November - early December.⁵

The occurrence of a King Eider in the southern Mackenzie District is not unique. In October 1903, Preble observed four individuals on the Mackenzie River near Fort Simpson.⁶ Also, an adult male was collected east of Fort Resolution during spring 1904.⁶ Additional spring observations include an adult male collected in Yellowknife Bay on Great Slave Lake in June 1938 and a few more recent observations in the same area (field notes of the late William L. McDonald, Yellowknife). Fall observations outside of Mackenzie District are comprised of 1 immature male at Blackstrap Lake, Saskatchewan, remaining in the area through mid-November, 1983 and 1 immature male near Calgary, Alberta on 4 November 1984.^{8 7}

Young of the year, and those older birds, mostly females, that remain longest on breeding grounds make up the later fall flocks. Murdock states that "small flocks and single birds are to be seen till the sea closes"⁶ Young eiders have been observed in large creches (up to 100 birds) through September in the central arctic, but fall migration of the species remains poorly known.^{2 1} Flock concluded that the waterfowl migration was ongoing at least through the first week of November at Point Barrow, Alaska.³ Based on his own studies, Barry presumed that these waterfowl were largely young eiders.

Despite such late departure dates from the arctic as October and early November, a mid-December observation in Yellowknife at an ambient temperature

Table 1. MEAN MINIMUM AND MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES (oC) FOR YELLOWKNIFE AND CAMBRIDGE BAY, N.W.T., DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1983.*

	Cambridge Bay		Yellowknife	
	November	December	November	December
Mean minimum	-8.6	-30.0	-20.4	-30.1
Departure from normal	\$9.4	-2.0	\$6.9	\$3.8
Mean maximum	-3.3	-21.7	-14.1	-22.4
Departure from normal	\$6.8	-1.8	\$5.7	\$4.0

* Data provided by Atmospheric Environment Services, Environment Canada, Yellowknife.

of -40° C is extremely unusual. We reviewed mean minimum and maximum temperatures for November and December 1983, in comparison to long term averages in an attempt to explain the late appearance of the eider (Table 1). We selected the locations of Yellowknife where the eider was recovered, and Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. the nearest likely departure point for the bird. Cambridge Bay is centrally located in the heart of the species' breeding range. We found that November (Yellowknife and Cambridge Bay) and December (Yellowknife) of 1983 were unusually mild and may have permitted an extended stay or higher survival of late hatched young than normally would have occurred.

Palmer suggested that scattered birds, if forced to move, may take a fairly direct southward course.⁵ The present occurrence is consistent with this conjecture. Such a rare departure of a young bird from the major migration pathways may have resulted from the lack of adult guide birds, which would long since have migrated.

¹ BARRY, T.W. 1983. Eider ducks of the western Canadian arctic. Unpubl. rept., Can. Wildl. Serv., Edmonton. 25 pp.

² BARRY, T.W., S.J. BARRY and B. JACOBSON. 1981. Sea-bird surveys in the Beaufort Sea, Amundsen Gulf, Prince of Wales Strait, and Viscount Melville Sound - 1980 season. Unpubl. rept., Can. Wildl. Serv., Edmonton. 69 pp.

³ FLOCK, W.L. 1973. Radar observations of bird movements along the Arctic coast of Alaska. *Wilson Bull.* 85:259-275.

⁴ GODFREY, W.E. 1966. The birds of Canada. Bull. 203, Biology Series 72, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. 428 pp.

⁵ PALMER, R.S. 1976. Handbook of North American birds, 3, Part II, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven. 521 pp.

⁶ PREBLE, E.A. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabasca - Mackenzie region. *North American Fauna* No. 27, U.S. Dept. of Agric., Washington. 574 pp.

⁷ SALT, W.R. and J.R. SALT. 1976. The birds of Alberta. Hurtig Publ., Edmonton. 498 pp.

⁸ SMITH, A.R. 1984. First record of the King Eider in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 42(2):91-92.

SCARLET TANAGER AT JACKFISH LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN

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On 15 May 1985 I made my first visit to The Battlefords Provincial Park. The day was sunny and clear, with moderate breeze and a temperature of 18° C. After entering the park at the north end I proceeded south-westerly on the main road on the north side of Jackfish Lake about 0.5 mi. and then turned off on a rough, winding trail that leads to the lake. After inspecting the beach area I returned to the spot where I had parked my car, near a clump of poplars and tall shrubbery. As I paused to look around I noticed what appeared to be several female Northern Orioles flitting quickly through the shrubbery. They were part of a flock of six to eight birds that moved off quickly to a large stand of poplars and shrubs to the west. As I watched them I noticed a brilliant scarlet bird, oriole-sized but chunkier in shape, perched on a dead limb at the top of the grove of trees. I was about 300 yards away and I quickly raised my binoculars to verify what I had seen. As the bird faced me I had a clear and totally unobstructed view for nearly a minute. It was a stunning sight — a male Scarlet Tanager! I was very familiar with the Cardinal and this specimen was smaller, had no crest and was a more brilliant scarlet. I had seen the Western Tanager many years before while birding with the late (and great) Maurice Street near Nipawin. I realised after about 10 seconds that another male was perched about 12 in. below and to the side of the first. He was turned away from me and it was easy to see the black wings and tail. Both males continued to perch in the bright spring light for about 15 seconds and then disappeared in a westerly direction.

I was a bit shaken by what I had seen since it was my first live observation of a Scarlet Tanager. When I later reported my sighting to Stuart Houston I learned that this is probably the most northwesterly sighting of this species in Saskatchewan. Whatever the significance to others it was a great thrill for me.

I noted that day also the following more prosaic species in the park: Yellow Warbler (quite common); Franklin's Gull (common); Common Crow (very common); Northern Oriole (common); Barn Swallow (very common, nesting under the eaves of a park building); Bank Swallow (common); Killdeer; flicker; Tree Swallow; Savannah Sparrow (common); Herring Gull (common); Mountain Bluebird (one male seen near the park gate).

WAS IT A GRAY FLYCATCHER???

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Returning home at about 4 p.m. on 27 August 1985, I was aware of much bird sound coming from my back yard. I heard the "static" of what I thought were nuthatches and, curious, I walked into the yard quietly, intent on discovering what was going on. I did indeed see four Red-breasted Nuthatches and spent several minutes watching them feeding in a large apple tree. Following the activity of one particularly noisy bird, I watched it fly to a second tree nearby, where there was another bird, whose presence caused me to forget the nuthatches.

The new bird was an Empidonax, about the size of a Least Flycatcher. It was sitting very still, almost vertically, on a small branch. However, it appeared somewhat slimmer than the usual Least and its tail seemed longer and narrower in proportion to the body. The back was a pale soft gray and the sides grayish but paler than the back. The throat was whitish and the underparts from upper breast to tail seemed tinged with yellow. The wing bars were quite faint. The bird had a definite but not highly contrasting eye-ring.

The feature which most intrigued me, however, was the manner in which the bird was moving its tail. Beginning from a nearly vertical position, the tail moved forward under the body and the branch, almost to the point where I could imagine the bird simply falling over backwards. Then the tail returned to its original position, from which, after a few seconds, it again moved forward. This motion was repeated slowly and regularly; not once did the tail rise back beyond the vertical position. The wings were motionless.

During this time the bird made no sound. It made two or three flycatching

forays out from the branch, returning to sit at approximately the same spot and resuming its tail movement in the same way as before. Then it began flitting from tree to bush to bush to a tree farther away, apparently flycatching en route. The bird moved out of the yard and I was not able to find it again.

I watched this bird for about 5 minutes as it sat on the branch (about 3 cm in diameter) and followed it for approximately another minute as it moved across and out of the yard. Though I had no binoculars at the time, I was less than 5 m from it as it sat, and rarely that far as it moved. Visibility was unimpeded through several leafless areas in the tree; the sun was still quite high and the light good. There was almost no wind. I was sure that the bird was not one of the flycatchers which frequent the area near the South Saskatchewan River where I live.

Various field guides were checked against my observations. An apparently definitive statement in the *Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* states about the Gray Flycatcher: "Its tail movement is unique, consisting of a relatively slow wag downward and back up to the tail's original slant. Other empids jerk or quiver their tails very rapidly, with the initial motion upward (or backward if the tail is held vertically...) The Gray's usually slower tail movement, merely down and back, combined with wings that are usually held still, create a relatively placid appearance."¹ The description matches quite closely all the details which I had noted in observing the bird in my apple tree a short time earlier. Unfortunately, I did not note the colour of the lower mandible and therefore could not use this as an identifying mark. Robbins et al.

also state that this species is the "only Empidonax to pump tail *down* first."²

This bird may have been a Gray Flycatcher. I could and did see it well. I am equally sure that it had not stowed away in my van, in which, coincidentally, I had just spent some 3 weeks in the mountains and Great Basin of Wyoming and Colorado, much more "home" to Gray Flycatchers than Saskatchewan — where

there is no previous record of their occurrence. However, for the moment, this is "the bird that got away."

¹ BAILEY, S.F. 1983 Gray Flycatcher. P. 266
In FARRAND, JOHN JR. 1983 Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding V. 2. Knopf, New York

² ROBBINS, C.S., B. BRUNN and H.S. ZIM
1983 A guide to field identification — birds of North America. Golden Press, New York

A FURTHER REPORT ON GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS

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For the past five summers a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers has occupied a nest box set up in the wooded area of our summer property at Whytewold on Lake Winnipeg. Apart from the fact that it was enjoyable to have had this particular species close at hand, the main purpose of the research was to make observations, and above all, to ascertain if any different materials had been used for nest building.

The first three years, 1981-83, have already been reported upon.¹ Further details presented here are for 1984-85.

At the end of May, 1984, the birds appeared as usual and occupied the nest box. Nesting was completed on 17 July; early that morning three fledglings were perched on bare branches near the nest box. There were a great many calls from the young and, on one occasion, a loud whistle came from the male to give warning of two Grey Squirrels which were climbing up and down the nearby trees. At 1900 h there was a great deal of commotion. The male was darting around the treetops at the front of our property and, after a few moments, *six* fledglings were located, perched on an oak branch 9 m

from the ground and about 19 m from the nest site.

After an absence of 12 days, during which calls were heard occasionally from a wooded area about 60 m distant, the entire family returned to the yard. On 31 July, 14 days after fledging, one young was observed being fed.

On 5 July 1984 I located another nest site about 0.4 km away. Both male and female were feeding young in a cavity of a hollowed-out log attached to an oak tree, approximately 3.6 m from the ground. Although it was only 3 m from a cottage sundeck, and Great Cresteds are usually cautious, secretive birds of the woods, the nest had been built before the owners had opened their cottage. There were many trees on this property.

The birds had a very narrow nesting space; the log was about 32.5 cm long, and 12.5 cm wide, with a crack down the centre nearly 1.25 cm wide. The entrance hole was 7.5 cm diameter and 6.25 cm from the top.

On 9 July three young were seen when the adults came with insects; 14 July calls

came from a nearby wooded area and only one young remained in the nest log. The following day the nest was empty.

In 1985 Great Crested Flycatcher calls were heard at 1115 h on 30 May. One of a pair looked into our nest box, and then entered it. Although I was not able to tag the birds I felt that it was the same pair that returned to the nest box every year.⁴

Nothing unusual happened until early 7 July when there were many loud raucous calls. Both male and female had been feeding the young for at least 3 days. There was a furious three-bird chase of Crested Flycatchers through the treetops and half way down the lane, which continued for at least an hour. During this time one bird returned to feed the young, then flew off again. It appeared that another male had entered the established territory of the mated pair. I had witnessed a worse fight during the mating season in 1983.^{2 3} The literature indicates that aerial combat is not unusual in Great Crested Flycatchers.⁵

The pair continued to feed the young, of which there were at least three that fledged. The box was empty 17 July, with the fledglings calling from woods 75 m away. Adults and young were on a wooded lot near the nest site 23 July. Last calls were heard 31 August.

Examination of the nest materials showed some variation. The nest box in 1984 contained the following: a thin base of moss, grasses, dried weed stalks, plant fibres, with animal hair to bind the material together. Also there were a white feather, a small clump of tangled wool, small bits of brown paper and wax paper, two tiny pieces of American Robin egg shell and, in one corner a pile of feather scales in the small nest cup. The nest in the log contained grassy fibres, droppings, wood chips, two white feathers and a tiny piece of wax paper.

The 1985 nest in the nest box had a base of 3 cm of mixed peat moss, dead oak leaves and plant fibres, all woven in with fine animal hair, also tiny twigs, two small feathers, green prairie grass gone to seed, and a clump of brown material which was identified as shredded inner bark of a dead aspen.

Although cast-off snakeskin is frequently reported as a nest component it was not the case with any of the six nests I examined.² It appears the Great Crested Flycatchers here used whatever trash material they could find. Shredded Cypress bark was the main component in nests of Great Crested Flycatchers observed by Tom Morrill at Tallahassee, Florida, including those in hanging gourds. One nest in the flue of an abandoned wood stove contained a piece of snakeskin. Morrill also observed that as the female picked up nest material there was "the male following her so closely as she does all the work, yelling as though he's doing it all!" This is similar to local observations.¹

The Great Crested Flycatcher was originally a "deep forest bird,"⁶ but in view of forest clearing it is interesting to note that they can be attracted to smaller wooded areas by the erection of nest boxes. In 1984 and 1985 there were three other territories in the neighbourhood, although except for one, the nests were not located. It appeared that the nesting sites were approximately 0.4 km apart.

I wish to acknowledge the help and encouragement of Herb Copland over the 5- year period.

¹ BANCROFT, JEAN. 1981. Great Crested Flycatcher. *Blue Jay* 39(4):226- 228.

² BANCROFT, JEAN. 1984. Further observations of Great Crested Flycatcher. *Blue Jay* 42(2):114-116.

³ BANCROFT, JEAN. 1984. Great-crested survived 2-day, 3-bird chase. *Nature Society*

News. April 1984, Griggsville, Illinois.

⁴ BENT, A.C. 1963. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows and their allies. Dover reprint. New York, N.Y. 555 pp.

⁵ FOY, D.J. 1985. Territorial combat. *Bird Wat-*

cher's Digest. May/June, 1985. Marietta, Ohio.

⁶ FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE. 1977. Cavity-nesting birds of North American forests. Agriculture Handbook No. 511. 112 pp.

UNUSUAL NESTING SITE FOR THE GREAT HORNED OWL

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Though the "hoot" of the Great Horned Owl alerted us of its nocturnal presence, we were not aware of its nesting intention. Most of us believed that these great owls migrated to southerly locations during the winter but returned to nest in our parkland areas to the north. This proved not to be the case in the spring of 1985.

Nick Postey had encountered the Great Horned Owls on the Souris Valley Regional Care Centre grounds in Weyburn as early as 1981. During one experience he discovered a pair of Great Horned Owls occupying a squirrel's nest high on a cottonwood tree. Yet Nick never noted the presence of any young and although he observed them several times in the vicinity, the owls seemed to disappear in February.

In January 1985 a pair of Great Horned Owls was discovered in a stand of evergreen trees on the Souris Valley Regional Care Centre grounds. Their coloration differed as one was pale, the other dark brown. A few days later, the pale owl was located across the Souris River by Ray Belanger and Nick Postey.

This area is characterised by flat grasslands with bush growth dispersed amongst scattered, tall old cottonwood and ash trees. The area, which was isolated from contact with people, had an unusual number of magpie nests.

During an early March evening walk through this magpie nesting area we noticed that a Great Horned Owl had occupied a nest some 20 feet up in an old ash tree. The nest was domed with a side entrance and the owl was distinctly visible through the abundance of dried sticks and twigs. This owl was dark brown. During several further visits this owl was still present in the nest, and often the pale owl was perched in a nearby tree. Later in March a newly-hatched Great Horned Owl chick was observed peering from the nest.

Of special interest to us was the choice of the nest. Great Horned Owls usually use the nests of Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, Herons or occasionally an old leafy nest of a squirrel.¹ In Saskatchewan, Swainson's and Red-tailed hawk nests are most commonly used. (Pers. comm. C.S. Houston, via D. Hjertaas). We were of

the opinion that platform nests were preferred over the domed variety as a Great Horned Owl is too large to enter a magpie nest. However the front and part of the roof of this nest had fallen out, leaving ample space for the owl to enter (see photographs).

On 20 April Dale Hjertaas banded the fledgling owl. C.S. Houston (pers. comm.

to D. Hjertaas) reports that of 1800 successful Great Horned Owl nestings, only one other was in a magpie nest.

¹ TERRES, J.K. 1980. The Audubon Society encyclopedia of North American birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 668 pp.



Magpie nest used by Great Horned Owls

Mabel Charlton



Young owl

Mabel Charlton



Nick Postey

POSSIBLE BONAPARTE'S GULL COLONIES IN MANITOBA

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The Bonaparte's Gull, although widely distributed inland and along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts to Honduras in winter, breeds almost exclusively in spruce and tamarack trees within the Boreal forest. It is also the only gull species which traditionally nests in trees.⁹ Bent identifies the historic breeding range of the Bonaparte's Gull as reaching mid-Wisconsin and Michigan to the south.¹ Nests near the southern portion of its range sometimes occur in marsh vegetation. "Lamotte's Swamp" in the North Battleford area provided the first Saskatchewan record for the Bonaparte's Gull.⁸ This colony, in which birds nested on old, fallen bulrushes, has been periodically checked and was active until at least 1969.⁴ Lamont reported another site where a Bonaparte's Gull was found nesting on the ground.⁵ Extirpation of the Bonaparte's Gull from the southern portion of its breeding range is blamed upon their slaughter during migration for millinery purposes before the turn of the century.³ Nesting continued in Wisconsin and Michigan until at least 1880.

Twomey, in a comprehensive study, found no nests south of Canada and no colonies containing nests closer than 200 m from each other.¹¹ All but one of his recorded nests were in spruce trees, 3 - 10 m above ground. Typically, one or two pairs occupied territories along the shorelines of isolated muskeg lakes. His literature review indicated that in some instances the species has been recorded nesting in dense colonies with several nests in the same tree. Soper reported the species nesting in a number of Riding Mountain National Park locations, including Clear Lake and Lake Audy.⁷ Re-

cent National Park records do not include information on the Bonaparte's Gull, but there is no reason to assume that they no longer breed in Riding Mountain National Park. In the Duck Mountains, McCready et al. found evidence of breeding in the vicinity of Line, Sinclair and Ketchum lakes.⁶ Taylor suggests that the Bonaparte's breeding range does not include the Pinawa area of southeastern Manitoba.¹⁰

While doing aerial surveys for colonial waterbirds and Bald Eagle nests in May and June 1983-1985 I observed Bonaparte's Gulls at a number of locations. Sightings were common near isolated lakes throughout the boreal forest north of Bissett and east of Lake Winnipeg, and north of Lake Winnipeg in the rest of the Province. Typically, one to several birds were recorded at a particular location. On a few occasions, however, 50 or more adult Bonaparte's Gulls were observed. These large concentrations were believed to be breeding colonies. None of these sites were visited on the ground, however, so breeding was not verified. The presence of adults which did not depart at the approach of low-flying aircraft suggests the probability that birds were breeding in these areas. Areas east of Lake Winnipeg containing 50 or more birds include the following:

- 1) a peninsula in Kapokeekeekek Lake, 51° 27' N 95° 58' W.
- 2) a small lake just west of Sturgeon Falls, 52° 06' N 96° 48' W.
- 3) a narrow peninsula in Morfee Lake, 52° 27' N 95° 56' W.

Concentrations in the Province's central area include two small lakes northeast of

The Pas, 54° 09' N 101° 10' W and 54° 19' N 101° 19' W. Bunn Lake southeast of Thompson, 55° 49' N 97° 19' W, also had a large Bonaparte's Gull concentration.

The existence of Bonaparte's Gulls throughout much of Manitoba's Boreal Forest during the breeding season indicated that the species continues to breed there. Records of several concentration areas as well as breeding evidence from the Duck Mountain area also suggests that the species is at least maintaining its provincial numbers. Godfrey suggests a broad provincial range for the Bonaparte's Gull.² This range remains accurate, however, occupied habitat is limited throughout the southern portions of his identified range.

¹BENT, A.C. 1963. Life histories of North American gulls and terns. Dover Publications, Inc. New York, N.Y. 337 pp.

²GODFREY, W.E. 1966. The birds of Canada. Nat. Mus. of Canada Bull. No. 203. 428 pp.

³KUMLIEN, L. and N. HOLLISTER. 1903. Revised by A.W. Schorger 1951. The birds of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. Madison. 122 pp.

⁴LAHRMAN, F.W. 1969. Bonaparte's Gull nesting at Glaslyn, Saskatchewan, 1969. *Blue Jay* 27(4):221.

⁵LAMONT, S.M. 1980. A typical nest of Bonaparte's Gull. *Blue Jay* 38(1):44-45.

⁶MCCREADY, S., C. REWCASTLE, D. GUINAN and L. L'ARRIVEE. 1980. Duck Mountain Resource Inventory. Parks Branch. Department of Natural Resources, Winnipeg. 126 pp.

⁷SOPER, J.D. 1953. The breeding birds of Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba, Canada. Can. Wildl. Serv. Wildl. Management Series 2, No. 6. 54 pp.

⁸SYMONS, R.D. 1968. A typical nesting of Bonaparte's Gull in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 26(2):70.

⁹TAVERNER, P.A. 1934. The birds of Canada. Canada Dept. Mines Mus. Bull. No. 72. 445 pp.

¹⁰TAYLOR, P. 1983. Wings along the Winnipeg: the birds of the Pinawa - Lac du Bonnet region, Manitoba. Eco. Ser. No. 3, Man. Nat. Soc., Winnipeg. 218 pp.

¹¹TWOMEY, A.C. 1934. Breeding habits of Bonaparte's Gull. *Auk* 51:291- 196.

PRAIRIE NEST RECORD CARD SCHEME

The summary for the 1985 nesting season is available to contributors and other interested persons. The work of participants has been much appreciated and found useful by researchers and others seeking information related to the progress and results of nesting birds.

More attention is now being drawn to the status of many game and non-game birds. The Prairie Nest Record Card Scheme can help to monitor areas in Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan, where many bird species nest from year to year.

For anyone who has kept records this season, or would like to participate in upcoming seasons please write for instructions and a supply of blank Prairie Nest Record Cards to:

**H. Copland
Prairie Nest Record Card Scheme
c/o Manitoba Museum of Man & Nature
190 Rubert Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0N2**

AMERICAN WOODCOCK BREEDING RANGE EXTENSION

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The status and breeding distribution of the American Woodcock in Manitoba has been previously reviewed in the *Blue Jay*.^{1 2} Woodcock have been shown to occur regularly as breeding residents south of Lake Winnipeg and east of the Red River, irregularly, west to within 80

km (50 mi.) of Winnipeg and north to within 136 km (85 mi.).

In recent years, woodcock have been observed several times in Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). Field notes by Jacques Saquet, former Park Naturalist



Riding Mountain (McCreary) nest site. Eggs visible lower center. 19 May 1983.

Ken L. Wainwright

(now at Fort Smith, N.W.T.), contain the following records which have been abbreviated here: 23-24 April 1980, one calling and seen near Kinosoo Lake Trail; 28 April 1980 (with Celes Davar), one in same area, but not observed after that date; 31 May 1982, two heard by Diane Kunec and Cheryl Campbell (now C. Penny) on the Brule Trail; 1 June 1982, one on the Kinosoo Lake Trail at the same location as in 1980, and two others on the Brule Trail; 2 June 1980 (with Ray Whaley), three observed, one in extensive aerial display, on the Brule Trail; 3 June 1980, three males recorded — one near Brule Trail — Grey Owl parking lot, one near post 16 and another near post 15 on the Brule Trail. These records strongly suggested that the American Woodcock was breeding in RMNP, but there has been no direct evidence for this.

An abandoned woodcock nest with four fresh eggs found 1.6 km (1 mi.) east of the East Gate of RMNP, off P.R. 19 on 18 May 1983, proves that woodcock nest this far west. The nest, the third for Manitoba, was found by Ken L. Wainwright while he was searching for a legal surveys monument (pers. comm., December 1985). The nest, which was close to the monument, was 7.6 m (25 ft.) from a grid road with a small brook beside it. The site, below the RMNP escarpment, is on fairly level, low ground and about 16 km (10 mi.) south of McCreary. The nest was apparently abandoned because of snow and cold. A snowstorm began in RMNP on 12 May 1983 with strong northwesterly winds and snow. The storm persisted until late on 13 May, leaving approximately 10 cm (4 in.) of snow on the ground. Park records show 7 cm of snow for 13 May, 1.6 cm for 14 May, and up to 4 cm for 15 May. The maximum daytime temperature at the North Gate of RMNP was -7.5°C ; maximum daytime temperature at the South Gate on 14 May was -5°C (pers. comm., Penny, December 1985; Saquet, January 1986).

Notes by Saquet (pers. corr., January 1986) show that the nest site was mostly low ground, with mainly Speckled Alder (2-4' dbh), a few mature Manitoba Maples and Black Poplars in the vicinity. Other nearby vegetation included Ostrich Fern, grasses, Stinging Nettle, Chokecherry and Raspberry. The nest itself was within 4.8 m (16 ft.) of the brook and in a slight depression in dead grass (see photos).



Close-up of nest; note the dead leaves blown into the nest.

Ken L. Wainwright

Claude Bonnefoy, then a Park Interpreter, visited the nest site with Wainwright on the day of its discovery (pers. comm., January 1986). Because no adult bird was seen, and being uncertain of the identification, one egg was taken to the Park Interpretation Centre. With the help of Celes Davar, it was identified as a woodcock egg. That egg, according to Bonnefoy, unfortunately was lost when someone opened the door and a gust of wind blew the egg off a table and onto the floor. The remaining three eggs were left in the nest in the hope that the nest might still be occupied. On a visit on 19 May, dead leaves in the nest (see photo) and an unbroken cobweb over the eggs convinced Bonnefoy that the nest had been deserted. Accordingly, the remain-

ing three eggs were taken and delivered to Herb Copland, Assistant Curator of Birds, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. I examined the eggs (catalogue no. 1.21-375 (a-c)) in Herb's company in December 1985. Herb stated that the eggs, which he had prepared, had been fresh.

The 1983 nest record just outside the boundary of RMNP extends the known breeding range about 136 km (85 mi.) northwest of the previous most westerly nesting (Reaburn, hen with brood, 24 May 1975, E.F. Bossenmaier¹), thus extending the known North American breeding range. It now seems likely that woodcock breed within RMNP, at least in some years. Moreover, this record lends support to earlier woodcock sightings in RMNP (one bird, 28 September 1933), Antler Creek, North Dakota (just south of the Manitoba - Saskatchewan border, April 1923), and lends credence to reports prior to 1924 for Oxbow and Moose Mountain, Saskatchewan.¹ It is even possible that woodcock may have bred at those localities at some time. Woodcock nests are notably difficult to find, but birds on territory make conspicuous and readily identifiable sounds. It remains to determine whether woodcock are regular residents over much of the range in which it is now known they can breed or in which they have occurred.

A fourth Manitoba woodcock nest record may be mentioned. Bill Koonz flushed a female from a nest near Bissett, Manitoba on 1 June 1984 (pers. comm., June 1984). This was on the Quesnel Lake road about 6.4 km (4 mi.) west of Bissett and within 91 m (100 yards) of P.R. 304. Three newly-hatched chicks left the nest and followed the hen. An addled egg that remained was collected, together with shell fragments of the other three eggs; all are in the collections of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. The habitat at the nest site consisted of fairly open, young Trembling Aspen. In an earlier

report, a female with five good-sized chicks was found 40 km (25 mi.) west of this site at Manigotogan.² It may be worth mentioning as a phenological indication of when to look for woodcock nests, that Koonz found his nest accidentally while searching for morels.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Jacques Saquet for bringing the RMNP nest record to my attention and for allowing me to publish his data. Ken Wainwright went to considerable effort to unearth the photographs and also provided useful information. Additional information was generously supplied by Claude Bonnefoy, Herbert W.R. Copland, Celes Davar, William H. Koonz, Cheryl Penny, Jacques Saquet and Ray Whaley.

¹ NERO, R.W. 1977. The American Woodcock in Manitoba. *Blue Jay* 35:240- 256.

² NERO, R.W. 1981. Additional American Woodcock notes for Manitoba. *Blue Jay* 39:202-205.

THE ACCIPITERS

SIGVALD O. JORDHEIM, White Bear, Saskatchewan. SOL 3L0

The three species of accipiters which occur in Saskatchewan are quite different from most of our hawks, in looks, action and temperament. All three have the rounded wings and long tail of the accipiter and are quite similar in color; size is the recognised difference.

The smallest member of the family, the Sharp-shinned Hawk, being no larger than a Kestrel, is adept at catching the smaller songbirds in their own environment, pursuing them right among the hedges and bushes. Their wings often come in contact with the branches.

The middle-sized, the Cooper's Hawk, is capable of killing larger birds up to the size of pigeons, partridge and small chickens. This past summer a Cooper's Hawk followed pigeons into a building and killed several birds, so they seem to have an urge to kill beyond their needs. This particular bird was captured and placed in a wire crate, with intention to release it some distance away, but it constantly threw itself against the sides of the crate and next morning it was dead.

The Northern Goshawk, the largest member of the family, is a formidable enemy to game birds and pigeons, being secretive, swift and very persistent. They come skimming close to the ground, across open fields and gracefully glide up into a tree, and with scarcely a movement of wings will alight among the branches and there sit motionless, scanning the surrounding countryside for possible prey. When the prey is spotted they drop almost to the ground and with rapid wingbeats build up tremendous speed and even pigeons which are faster than many birds will find the goshawk right among the flock despite their efforts. If

the pigeon can outmanoeuvre it three or four times the hawk tires and will glide gracefully down and again land in a tree or on some other vantage point and patiently sit until the pigeons, after much circling will eventually alight, when it will make another attempt.

When the farm flock of 100 pigeons wish to go in the coop, which has small 4 x 5' openings, there is much fluttering and one particular goshawk soon learned that this was a very good time to move in and capture one. Soon the pigeons changed their tactics and with the flock circling above the coop, six or eight pigeons would drop down and quickly get inside. The flock would make another circle and if the hawk was not coming, another few birds would plunge down and enter the building. If the hawk was advancing the whole flock would climb to greater heights to foil the hawk. When it alighted the flock would come to a lower altitude and again a few at a time would gain the safety of the coop, until finally they were all inside.

Hunting was becoming less productive for the hawk and one day it pursued some bantam chickens into a wire pen in front of the henhouse. I closed the door, captured the hawk, banded and sprayed some green paint on its tail and underparts so it could be identified at a distance, then put it in the same wire box the Cooper's Hawk had been in, but it too beat itself against the sides. Fearing it would injure itself, I put it in a cardboard box, but even in that, the bird jumped and thumped constantly. I drove some 20 km in a north-easterly direction and released the hawk, which immediately flew in a south-easterly direction.



The next day I did not see any goshawks at the farm. The second morning one was again pursuing pigeons, but being between me and the rising sun I could not identify it as being the colored bird. The third morning one flew directly over my head and it was the marked bird. Off and on all day it attempted to capture pigeons but was unable to do so. The fourth morning, when I went out to do the chores, there were pigeons out flying. Since this was before the sun was up it was a good sign that something was in the coop. On investigating I found the marked goshawk. It had killed four pigeons, eating part of one and wounded another; again these birds seem to kill when the opportunity exists.

The hawk measured 21.5' in length and had a wingspan of 40'; it weighed 1 lb. 10 oz., so apparently was slightly undernourished. It had found its way through a 4 x 5' hole.

RAVENS SNOW BATHING!

In an article in the March 1984 issue of the Blue Jay, I described House Sparrows and a Boreal Chickadee snowbathing. (I received a request for a copy of this article from a university in Brazil. Such a subject, I am sure would be of considerable interest in the tropics.) On 21 December 1985 I observed some more snowbathing activities while taking part in the annual Christmas Bird Count. Near the grain elevators at Somme, 15 House Sparrows were snowbathing at the base of willow clumps, in the railway ditch. It was 11 a.m., the temperature was 0o, and the recent snow was fluffy.

At 2:30 p.m. David Black and I were seven miles south of Somme looking for birds along the Big Valley Creek. The temperature had risen to 5o, the warmest since 4 November. Some ravens were calling loudly from down on the creek ice. As they called others came swooping in and dropping down to where they were. I thought that they must be feeding on a dead deer or some other carrion on the ice. When I went to investigate I found by the marks in the snow that several were snowbathing in two different locations.

The snow on the creek ice was 7 cm deep. It was soft and loose. There were marks in the snow of their bodies being dragged about twice their length, propelled forward by their wings. This was indicated by about four pairs of wing marks, where each Raven bathed. There were also some marks where they moved their tails back and forth, from side to side.

I am sure by these marks that the ravens had the snow well worked into their feathers, and had as good a bath, without water, as a Saskatchewan bird could expect in December. — *Donald F. Hooper*, Box 40, Somme, Saskatchewan. SOE 1N0

AN UNUSUAL RAVEN NEST SITE — ON A GRAIN ELEVATOR AT FOSSTON

In March 1983 a pair of Common Ravens constructed a nest on the walkway between the main United Grain Growers elevator structure and the storage annex, 60 feet above the ground. The nest was about 2 feet in diameter and was built of sticks, paper and cattle hair.

Don Schultz, the elevator agent, calculates that the five eggs hatched early in April. When the young ravens began to walk around, they would follow Don into the annex to eat grain from the walkway floor — and he would chase

them out, like chickens. There was a severe snowstorm on 12 May that year, and two of the young ravens died of exposure. The other three left the nest later.

This unusual event was reported, with a photograph, in the Wadena News of 14 April 1983. In 1984 the ravens attempted nesting again, on the same walkway, but the fire inspector considered the dry sticks and paper to be a fire hazard so the nest was destroyed.

Not only was this an unusual and noteworthy site, but the location is 20 mi. southwest of the nearest raven habitat around Greenwater Lake Provincial Park. — *Kelly Kozij*, Box 35, Hendon, Saskatchewan. S0E 0X0



OWLS IN OUR FARMYARD

SHIRLEY BRUNT, Box 7, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan. S0H 0B0

In the fall of 1976, we moved to our present farmstead 4 mi. southwest of Assiniboia Saskatchewan. It wasn't long before we realised that we were sharing our quarter section of land, which included a large yard surrounded by a shelterbelt, with two Great Horned Owls. They made an appearance annually about mid-January to begin their courtship. Many evenings and early mornings our sleep would be interrupted by the soft and also not-so-soft hootings coming from the trees. We were impressed with their great balancing act as they liked to perch on the very top of the tallest trees. Their courtship went on for about 6 weeks, followed by their nesting. We made no observations of their nesting places for the first few years.

During the construction of a quonset in our yard, the owls would occasionally choose to fly in through the open end of the building and spend the night roosting on the rafters. They were quite content to stay when we walked into the building, but were frightened into flight by any loud or sharp sound. In one instance, one of the owls was disturbed from its midday snooze by the sound of a car door being shut; it immediately flew out the opposite end of the building, flying directly through a window, apparently unharmed, leaving us to gather up broken pieces of glass and to replace a window.

In 1984 we became "owl watchers" in earnest. Following their usual pattern, the owls arrived on the scene in mid-January. Following the 6 weeks of courting, they chose for a nesting place a roofless magpie nest which was situated in trees at the front of our yard, easily visible from our living-room window. We watched with a certain amount of anxiety and

trepidation as the female clung to the nest, day after day, through typical March weather of snow, wind, sleet and rain. We observed the rapid growth of the two owlets as their heads gradually appeared over the top of the nest. Soon the mother had to move off the nest as the accommodations became crowded. We noted the first hesitant moves of the young owls away from the nest and their attempts to fly — first to a nearby branch and then to another tree, and so on. One owl seemed to be the older, stronger or more aggressive, and the other liked to remain in the nest a few days longer.

We expected when they learned to fly they would move elsewhere. However, such was not the case, as they liked their surroundings, though there was very little left of the nest by this time. They were now quite self sufficient and able to hunt their own food, and the parents left the yard area.

During the hot, dry summer of 1984 we had many grasshoppers in our yard. The young owls liked to spend evenings, with the aid of the yard light, waddling through the grass and gobbling grasshoppers. We had placed small containers (hand wash basin size) of water on the grass for the use of other birds in the yard. On one occasion, in the early morning, one of the owls decided it was a good place to have a bath and there it stood in the middle of this small dish, taking up all the space, flipping a bit of moisture under its wings and perhaps washing its feet. On yet another occasion, the same type of container held only a small amount of water and the owls shared a drink, with one owl carefully tipping the basin with its foot while the other drank. By November the young owls had left our yard.

In 1985 the parents found another magpie nest to their liking near the 1984 nest. It, too, no longer had a roof of twigs. Once again, two owls were hatched and we began our "peeping Tom" observations with and without binoculars. The summer of 1985 was again dry, with an overabundance of grasshoppers and these young owls followed the same pattern as those of the previous year, as they hopped through the grass in the evenings devouring grasshoppers. These owls showed no interest in the containers of water (at least that we observed). The owls, in their attempts to learn to fly, would not always make graceful landings, and on one occasion, one owl was observed clinging to a branch in a bat-like position. Within a minute or two the bird did manage to right itself.

As 1985 drew to a close once again the yard was "owl-less." As well, there did not appear to be any suitable nest in the

same area of the yard that would lure the owls in 1986. We recalled reading that owls would nest in boxes placed in trees. As an experiment, a sturdy wooden box (measuring 28 x 28 x 6') was constructed, complete with drain holes, twigs and grass and installed firmly in a tree, 14 ft. above the ground. Once again, the "old timers" returned to the yard in mid-January, and as before serenaded many evenings with their hooting calls. They noticed the box and would perch on nearby trees, surveying the situation. On 5 March the female appeared on the man-made nest, 1 day earlier than the observed nesting date in 1985. The female is easily able to snuggle down in the nest during the day and seems to have a little more protection from the elements. We are, of course, hoping for a successful hatching again this year. How many more years will we be fortunate to have the two adults return each January?



Great Horned Owl feeding young at man-made nest

Lorne Scott

PEREGRINE FALCON HARASSES SANDHILL CRANES IN FLIGHT

In late afternoon on 3 May 1975, Herb Copland, Spencer Sealy and I observed a Peregrine Falcon harassing a group of three pairs of Sandhill Cranes. This was about 8 km (5 mi.) south of East Brainerd in extreme southeastern Manitoba. When first seen, the cranes were alternately flapping and soaring high overhead, heading southwest. Suddenly a Peregrine Falcon appeared, rapidly gained on the group and then flew amongst them, whereupon the cranes separated somewhat, though still keeping in pairs. When the Peregrine flew close behind one crane, it veered away from the others, sideslipping and flying rapidly with the Peregrine right behind it. It looked as if the Peregrine intended to attack, but it shortly broke off the chase and flew away. The lone crane soon joined its mate and the six birds continued on their leisurely flight. This spectacular aerial event lasted perhaps two or three minutes.

Playful pursuit by the Peregrine Falcon of large birds has been reported a few times. Alexander Wetmore, for example, in 1933 (*in* Bent, A.C., 1938, *Life histories of North American birds of prey*, Part 2, Dover Publ., New York, reprint 1961) describes a Peregrine Falcon pursuing Black-crowned Night-Herons as they flushed before his boat along a river. The Peregrine repeatedly flew at individual herons until each was forced into the water and had to swim ashore. In a review of major publications on the Peregrine Falcon and the Sandhill Crane, however, I found no reference to interactions between these two species. — Robert W. Nero, Box 14, 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. R3H 0W9

FIRST BAND-TAILED PIGEON IN YORKTON AREA

JOYCE ANAKA, Box 211, Yorkton, Saskatchewan. S3N 2V7

On 28 August 1985 I had the birding highlight of the summer. As I walked out to look at Good Spirit Lake from the south shore a large, unfamiliar, pigeon-like bird landed on top of a dead tree 50 ft. away. For approximately 5 minutes I watched it through 8 x 10 binoculars while it watched me with interest — head weaving and bobbing.

While observing it I jotted down its characteristics on a piece of paper I had in my pocket. The most obvious were the black-tipped, yellow beak, red eyes and yellow feet. There was a white strip behind the eye and a very dark, almost black area behind the white strip. The body was an overall very pale light brown with a hint of darker color in the wings but no wing marks, bars or other marks other than those noted on the nape of the neck and head.

I drew a rough sketch of it before it flew off. It went about 100 yards west along the lake bank and again landed on a dead tree. I went to pick up the camera but before I could get into range the bird flew off to the south. I checked the area but could not locate it again.

With the aid of my sketch and notes on field marks Bill identified the bird as a Band-tailed Pigeon. This is the first hypothetical record of this species for this part of Saskatchewan.

BOBCAT SIGHTING AT SASKATCHEWAN LANDING

SHAWN J. CARDIFF, Box 1054, Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, S0N 1N0 and GERALD W. KUZYSK, 40 Alberta Crescent, Lloydminster, Alberta. T9V 0L6

On 14 March 1986 the authors were hiking in Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park to observe and photograph wildlife. The weather was sunny and mild, with a slight breeze. Over 100 deer, the majority of them White-tailed Deer, were observed during the peak activity periods of early morning and late afternoon.

Shortly before 5:00 p.m. a group of five Mule Deer were seen in a deep coulee in the rugged hills of the southwest region of the park. They were cautiously approached, but ran when we were about 200 m away. Another animal appeared on the hillside, moving upslope. The body form and movement immediately suggested that the animal was a large wild cat. Viewing it through a 220 mm telephoto lens confirmed the features of a bob-tailed cat. Four photographs were taken before the animal disappeared over a hilltop.

The animal was identified as a Bobcat. The location of the sighting is at the northern limit of the Bobcat's range in the prairie provinces.² ¹ Nero points out that Bobcat sightings in the province are rare and should be reported in order to establish the actual range and status of the species.³

We thank W.J. Maher for reviewing this note.

¹ BANFIELD, A.W.F. 1974. The mammals of Canada. University of Toronto Press.

² BECK, W.H. 1958. A guide to Saskatchewan mammals. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc. Special Publ. No. 1.

³ NERO, R.W. 1961. Editor's note. *Blue Jay* 19(1):42.



Mule Deer

Wayne Lynch

DINOSAUR COUNTRY: UNEARTHING THE BADLANDS' PREHISTORIC PAST

RENIE GROSS 1982 Western Producer
Prairie Books, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
128 pp.

Although many books have been written about dinosaurs in the past 2 decades, not one has specialized in the fossils of Alberta. The last major book on the subject was Charles H. Sternberg's *Hunting Dinosaurs in the Bad Lands of the Red Deer River*, privately printed in the early part of this century. *Dinosaur Country* breaks the long frozen ground by discussing not only the fossils from Alberta, but how the animals lived and died, the environment, the geology of the region, and practically everything you have ever wanted to know the about dinosaurs of Alberta.

One draw-back of this book, however, is that it discusses again *all* the different dinosaurs from the Late Cretaceous of Alberta. Several chapters are devoted to this, and I suppose it's unavoidable. But if you have read one popular dinosaur book, you already know what is written in the rest of them. However, Gross's ap-

proach is to put the story of dinosaurs in an Alberta context, and with her novelistic writing style, it doesn't seem as boring as it could be.

Fossil collecting in western Canada has been quite extensive and though Gross treats the history of this subject at some length, a few people are overlooked. While high ranking palaeontologists like Barnum Brown, Lawrence Lambe, Henry Fairfield Osborn, E.D. Cope and the Sternberg family (the father Charles H., sons George, Levi and Charles M.) are noted, no mention at all is made of the extensive work by Loris Russell who has contributed immensely to the knowledge of dinosaurs and other fossils, not just of Alberta but of all of Canada since 1926 (this was the year of his first published paper which was on a new species of mammal from the Paleocene of Alberta) and who is still actively working on fossils from western Canada.

In summary, this book has character, is well thought out and should be popular with people who have an interest in dinosaurs. It has been over 50 years since C. H. Sternberg's book appeared, and it will probably be a while yet before another is published. — Reviewed by *Tim T. Tokaryk*, Earth Sciences, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Wascana Park, Regina, Saskatchewan. S4P 3V7

FLORE DES CHAMPIGNON AU QUEBEC

RENE POMERLEAU 1980 Bibliotheque Nationale du Quebec. 652 pp. hardcover \$65.00

Mushroom Flora of Quebec is available in French only. It has 131 plates of line drawings and about 100 color plates, contains descriptions of 1400 species of fleshy fungi under the headings of historical background, nature of mushrooms, forms and structures, anatomy, colors and color tables, distribution, classification of odors, intoxication, toxicology, therapy and cultivation.

Each species has a list of names by different authors, a list of common names in French and the name in English. There are also detailed descriptions. At the back is an alphabetic index, glossary and bibliography.

This book is not too difficult to use with elementary French and a dictionary. — Reviewed by *Anthony Capusten*, 1139 River Street West, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. S6V 3A2

THE CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

JAMES H. MARSH, Editor in Chief 1985 Hurtig. 2089 pp. 3 vol. hardcover \$175.00

"A solid, well intentioned, but much flawed beginning," quotes Charles Haines' review. This brickbat notwithstanding the article on the Geology of Canada is instructive. Of special interest to naturalists are the items on birds, fungi, insects, mammals and plants.

There is an article on hawks by Richard Fyfe and one on owls by C. Stuart Houston. Omissions are regrettable but understandable when the text had to be reduced to a third. The text is absorbing, illustrations good. — Reviewed by *Anthony Capusten*, 1139 River Street West, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. S6V 3A2

THE WILDLIFE GARDENER

JOHN V. DENNIS. 1985. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 293 pp., 65 drawings by Matthew Kalmenoff. Appendix. Hardcover \$25.50 (\$17.95 U.S. funds).

Have you ever wondered how to attract more wildlife to the place where you live? Perhaps you would like to see more butterflies in your yard, or have hummingbirds, chipmunks or even a toad visit more regularly? Perhaps you have been unsure whether a tree, shrub or flower in your garden is worth keeping, or wondered whether another plant might attract more wildlife? Dennis draws on his own experience and that of others to help answer these questions. This book is primarily directed to gardeners and amateur naturalists who have their own yards.

In the introduction and the first two chapters "Planting for Wildlife" and "Water — Key to More Wildlife" we learn about basic principles for successful wildlife gardening. Most of the ideas are "neither difficult to follow nor at odds with good landscaping." We can use plants to create edges, islands or screens: pruning if done judiciously can improve the usefulness of a tree for woodpeckers; selective weeding can leave food plants for butterflies or moths in their larval stages. Water, from a simple dripping tap to an elaborate pond, will attract far more forms of life than we dreamed were at our doorstep. Think of the birds that need

something as simple as mud to build their nests each year (robin, phoebes, barn swallows) and which benefit from our efforts to water the garden in dry weather.

Gardening for birds is the topic of the next three chapters: "Food Plants," "Nesting Sites" and "Attracting Hummingbirds." Plants providing valuable supplemental food in fall and winter are emphasised and plants which have harboured 10 or more nesting species are listed. For example, hawthorns, apple trees and dogwoods combine excellent food and shelter value in one plant. Because "nearly everyone who feeds birds sooner or later tries his hand at seducing hummingbirds" a detailed explanation (and lists) of plants preferred by hummers is given. Some good advice on hummingbird feeders is also helpful. Although the Saskatchewan gardener may at first be disappointed that many plants given by Dennis do not grow here, there are a surprising number which do grow well.

The next chapter, "Entertaining the Mammals," deals with the behavior and ecology of mammals, and numerous hints are given to the gardener for attracting mammals and dealing with problem visitors.

Insects are covered in four chapters on bees, butterflies, moths and other insects. Again much information is given on the lives of insects. Lists of plants attractive to larval butterflies and to a lesser extent moths are presented; 12 of 25 butterflies treated in detail occur in Saskatchewan. Dennis makes a plea for avoiding chemicals to control pest insects and provides an interesting list of species of insects which control our most damaging insect foes. The gardener can be amazingly successful in attracting a large number of insects, a commonly overlooked form of wildlife; one observer found 1,401 species in his small yard in New Jersey.

Earthworms are treated in one short chapter. This should be of special interest to those gardeners who love their compost heap.

The final chapter deals with reptiles and amphibians, and their ecology. While Saskatchewan has relatively few species of reptiles and amphibians it makes interesting reading. Every gardener will be pleased to know that toads love to eat cutworms!

The appendix covers 213 species of plants for the garden and their uses as food plants for wildlife. It is usefully cross-indexed. The bibliography includes 93 sources which may be helpful to the gardener. Some you may be able to borrow through your local library.

Perhaps the strongest feature of this book is that it helps us observe all forms of wildlife in our gardens. The rather large amount of general information provided on many groups of wildlife serves to show us their interrelationships with one another. Many of us enjoy watching birds and butterflies but when was the last time we watched an earthworm, dragonfly or a snake? I would like to have seen more of the ideas graphically illustrated as was done in the National Wildlife Federation's *Gardening with Wildlife* (1974).

Dennis (the author of two other books, *A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding*, and *Beyond the Bird Feeder*) has made a strong effort to make this book valuable to gardeners and naturalists across North America. It will be a useful source of information to those who want to attract wildlife to their garden, be it an urban apartment, balcony or a rural acreage. — Reviewed by *Philip S. Taylor*, 1714 Prince of Wales Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7K 3E5

GUIDE TO OWL WATCHING IN NORTH AMERICA

DONALD S. HEINTZELMAN 1984 Winchester Press, New Jersey. 144 pp. illustrated 4 3/4 x 8 1/4 in. \$8.95 (US) paperback

The publisher indicates that "This is much more than a field guide! For the first time — here is an inexpensive, compact, truly comprehensive, illustrated manual covering all aspects of owl watching: observation methods, equipment, distribution, migrations, species accounts, nesting and feeding habitats and checklist of North American owls."

This is a gross overstatement. I found the book full of mistakes, misleading, incomplete and certainly not comprehensive. Let me elaborate. The most blatant error and the one that irks me most is that the title says North America yet the book only covers the continental United States and Canada. Mexico and south to the Panama Canal are excluded as is the Caribbean; thus only 19 of the 41 species listed by the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds* are treated in detail. (The Oriental Scops-Owl is mentioned as accidental in Alaska.) Nomenclature appears to follow the 6th (1983) edition of the A.O.U. Check-list, yet the new spelling using hyphens for Barn-Owl, Screech-Owl, Hawk-Owl and Pigmy-Owl is not used. The author misuses the words "juvenal" and "juvenile" throughout the species accounts. Incubation periods are not all correct, e.g. Long-eared and Short-eared owls are listed as 21 days instead of 28 days, and I strongly suspect that 14 days is incorrect for Elf Owl. Do Snowy Owls really occasionally nest in old eagle nests in trees? The ranges are out-of-date for such species as Barred Owl which is expanding westward, and Boreal Owl now known to breed in the western Rocky Mountain states south to Colorado. It is

incorrectly implied that ear-tufts are erect only in alarm - I have watched sleeping Long-eared Owls with ears erect. Food for Eastern Screech-Owl includes "fruit and seeds" — which they ingest as stomach contents of prey not directly as food.

How does the book rate as a guide to where to watch owls? Very poorly. Firstly, it includes only 40 of the 49 continental states and Canada has been reduced to 6 provinces and no territories. Are there no owls in South Dakota, Alaska, Rhode Island, Alberta, Northwest Territories and, heaven forbid, Saskatchewan? The site guide is limited almost exclusively to parks and refuges. As I cannot use Saskatchewan for a check on thoroughness, I will use Manitoba and Montana. In Manitoba five owling sites are given and one can expect to find only four species in the province — Snowy, Short-eared, Great Gray and Hawk-Owl. Montana fared worse with only one site and two species.

You would be much further ahead to purchase a good field guide with range maps (such as the Golden Guide by Robbins *et al.*) and another book which gives relatively detailed information on habitat utilisation and habits (e.g. Bent's Life Histories). You will know where to look for owls, both by area and habitat, and when to look for them. You will even know what they sound like!

Save your money — don't buy this book. — Reviewed by Wayne C. Harris, Box 414, Raymore, Saskatchewan. S0A 3J0

WINGS ALONG THE WINNIPEG:

The birds of the Pinawa - Lac du Bonnet Region, Manitoba

PETER TAYLOR. 1983. Reprinted with supplement and minor corrections 1985. Manitoba Naturalists Society Eco Series No. 2. M.N.S., 302 - 128 James Avenue, Winnipeg, Man. R3B 0N8 223 pp. Paper \$9.95

Peter Taylor's book deals with the avifauna of a section of southeastern Manitoba familiar to many because Robert Nero and his associates did much of their research on the Great Gray Owl there (see *Blue Jay* 42:130, 1984).

Wings along the Winnipeg describes the bird population of the tract of forest and farmland which is drained by the Winnipeg River, and includes Lac du Bonnet and Natalie lakes, parts of the Whitemouth and Oiseau rivers and the towns of Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet, Seven Sisters and Whitemouth.

The first section of the book includes the geography and the boreal forest vegetation, and traces the history of human settlement. A few pages devoted to some of the best birding localities of the region serve, along with the two maps, as a guide for resident and visiting birders alike.

The summary of historical bird observations mentions such men as Victor Latta, Fred Rogers and Douglas Shanks. Their records, along with information from Winnipeg newspaper columns "Chickadee Notes" and "Wild Wings," and contemporary records, supplement Peter Taylor's own observations; together they form the bulk of the volume, the species accounts, documenting 301 species.

Taylor writes in a very readable style,

with clarity and humour; there is a pleasant blend of science and anecdote, appealing to readers of both general and specialised bent. Each account is a concise review of the status of that bird species and is likely to be spiced with interesting tidbits of information and even some amusing remembrances. The account of the Common Raven illustrates this:

"Local Ravens start to establish breeding territories in February, about a month before winter visitors leave. At this time they indulge in spectacular aerobatics, soaring to great heights and tumbling, rolling and somersaulting in the air; their funereal appearance evidently belies a rare zest for life. At other times they present a more sombre aspect as they patrol highways for road-killed skunks and similar delicacies. In April or May, if a Raven encroaches on the nesting territory of a Crow, some impressive aerial combat may ensue. The Crows dive repeatedly at their larger relative, passing close but rarely if ever striking, while their target rolls and side-slips out of the way, not appearing unduly anxious to leave. Still more spectacular aerial performances may sometimes be seen when Ravens themselves harass a Bald Eagle in similar fashion."

In the account of the Chestnut-sided Warbler there is a comment on the relationship between declining numbers of this species and the rapid loss of its winter habitat in Central America. Amongst the birds of the vicinity, even the unfortunate Passenger Pigeon of yesteryear is given a place, its former status based on accounts by Hind in 1860 and Thompson in 1891.

The sequence and vernacular names of the American Birding Association have been used, with deference to the American Ornithologists' Union in the

matter of scientific nomenclature. The A.O.U. 1983 checklist was not available in time to be used in the first edition of this book, but it is unfortunate that the 1985 edition was not revised to conform to A.O.U.'s Sixth Edition. The index gives only the English names; Latin names would have been a welcome inclusion, especially since a standardised format is not followed. Extreme and normal dates of occurrence are a helpful feature of the species accounts and are drawn mostly from the author's own records of the years 1975 to 1983.

There are three appendices: a summary of breeding evidence for summer resident species; a table of Christmas bird count totals from 1964 to 1982; and the last, updating species' records since the first edition of the book was published in 1983.

The table of contents and the index allow easy access to almost all of the topics; only the newest species documented in the third appendix are not indexed. Although the printing of some of the 59 photographs of habitat and birds leaves something to be desired and a few of the pictures are exceedingly small, they are useful and the captions are interesting. The author's lively sketch of a hawk owl decorates the cover of the book and another appears inside.

Peter Taylor's *Wings along the Winnipeg* is an excellent book, well written, and is based on sound study and extensive research. It will whet the appetite of readers for new sights and sounds, drawing them to further adventures with birds. As I read, I was seized by the desire to go there and see for myself. I recommend the book to ornithologists of all stripes, from sedate scientist to jaded twitcher! — Reviewed by *Carol Bjorklund*, Box 32, Bromhead, Saskatchewan. S0C 0N0

LOON MAGIC

TOM KLEIN. 1985. Paper Birch Press Inc., Ashland, Wisconsin. 130 pp. U.S. \$39.95.

I have been privileged to read *Loon Magic*, a book about loons by a loon devotee, Tom Klein. Although the other three species of loons (Arctic, Red-throated and Yellow-billed) are involved the hero of this exhaustive study is the Common Loon. At last, the Common Loon has its very own book written for the ordinary person. I am sure that the loon's many friends, including those who know and admire the loon only through brief and casual contacts during summer vacations, will enjoy this lavishly illustrated and knowledgeable text.

The first section of *Loon Magic* consists of acknowledgements, including one to Woody Hagge who, while only one of 14 photographers, "... carried the visual weight of the book." The combined efforts of the 14 is absolutely stunning. The sensitive preface by Sigurd T. Olson and the author's delightful Introduction set the stage for the rest of the book.

In the following 130 pages one will find just about everything he needs to know about loons but, remarkably, the scientific papers assembled and digested are served up without using difficult scientific terms. Thus the book presents loons as loons; one does not study it, one reads it, and enjoys it — and learns!

There are four sections: 1) Looking for Loons: the people who love loons; the four species of loons; the physical loon; status and distribution (in this chapter SNHS president Dale Hjertaas contributed a paragraph on Saskatchewan loons); diet; the language of the loon.

2) Loons through the Seasons: migration; territory and courtship; nesting; predation (raccoons, gulls); family life; fall

migration and wintering.

- 3) Looking Ahead: pollution, botulism, and acid rain; people problems; recovery.
- 4) Sources: the contributors whose offerings were distilled into the 130 pages of text and photographs; selected bibliography; loon organizations; photographs (with a letter from Woody Hagge; Common Loon summary and index for quick reference by topic.

In spite of the volume of facts presented by the author (and his fluent, flowing prose and homely idiom conveys them so easily that one is scarcely aware of the knowledge gained) there are still gaps where research is needed to explain the roles of photoperiod, temperature and behavioral clues from other migrating birds. Precise information about the exact routes overland is needed and here the author suggests that radio telemetry projects would help.

The physical appeal of the book is considerable. Its horizontal format best accommodates the numerous full-page colour photographs of loons which are 'horizontal' birds. (Available from The Blue Jay Bookshop, P.O. Box 1121, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3B4, for \$44.50 net special.) — Reviewed by *Frank Brazier*, 2657 Cameron Street, Regina, Saskatchewan. S4T 2W5

BIRDWATCHING: A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

JOAN EASTON LENTZ and JUDITH YOUNG. 1985. Capra Press, Santa Barbara, California. 178 pp. Drawings. \$9.95.

Every now and then a book appears which I wish I'd had the good sense to think of writing myself. This is one of those books. No longer will I have to

spend hours seeking materials for introductory bird-watching classes; almost everything I'll want is right here in this small volume.

The authors are both California naturalists, who present here a beginners' bird-watching course. Bearing in mind that a birdwatcher is made, not born, and that learning the subtleties of field identification takes long practice, they nonetheless feel that basic information and techniques can be successfully learned from a book. They present a synopsis of bird classification, notes on behaviour and habitat, suggestions on how to observe and how to record sightings and advice on equipment from binoculars to bird song tapes. Details are copious and accurate.

Descriptions of two typical bird walks make lively and interesting reading. On each trip some ten common species are met and learned in detail, from field marks to behaviour and habitat. An eastern bird walk in early May is described with the visual and auditory detail which brings a reader right into the hardwoods and lush undergrowth where Blue Jays are calling. Nine of the ten species described here are readily found, in similar circumstances, throughout much of Saskatchewan. The second walk, on a misty May morning on the California coast, is equally evocative, albeit a bit more exotic for Prairie birdwatchers.

A chapter on activities and projects includes a good variety of suggestions to encourage new birders to extend their involvement in a vastly varied hobby - keeping lists, making fieldnotes, mapping local habitat, making nesting calendars, monitoring migration, participating in special counts (e.g., Christmas Bird Counts), and generally becoming part of their local birding 'network.'

The bibliography is excellent and extensive both in number of entries and in

types of material covered. The book ends with a complete checklist of North American birds.

To be sure, some items are included which I fail to see as highly important - such as a full chapter on birding hot spots in the U.S. The final checklist of birds, which takes up 37 pages, is easily obtained elsewhere and is something which many birders might wish to build for themselves. And I would add a few more silhouettes in the section on bird classification and perhaps a few more details in the section on behaviour. If permitted one minor observation from a purely pedantic viewpoint, I would add that they perpetuate the controversy on how to spell bird-watching (not birdwatching) as found in Webster's Third International.

However, it is difficult to find fault. I heartily recommend this publication — the authors succeed in being highly informative, totally persuasive of the attractions of bird-watching as a hobby and greatly entertaining at the same time. And the price is right. I have no doubts that this book will fulfill its authors' purpose — to introduce readers to an activity which is rewarding at any stage of life and which "will enrich every experience, from a walk to the mailbox to a journey of a thousand miles." Birdwatching: a guide for beginners will head my personal list of "musts" for beginning bird-watchers. — Reviewed by *Mary D. Gilliland*, 902 University drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7N 0K1

FLYING SQUIRRELS: GLIDERS IN THE DARK

NANCY WELLS-GOSLING. 1985. Smithsonian Nature Book Series, Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C. 128 pp. \$24.95 hardcover, \$9.95 paperback.

"Sometimes a small object can change one's life dramatically. In my case, it was a two-ounce bundle packaged in gray fur, complete with enormous, dark eyes I determined at once to learn everything possible about flying squirrels." So begins Nancy Wells-Gosling in her book about the two North American species of flying squirrels, *Glaucomys volans* and *G. sabrinus*. While she principally writes about Southern Flying Squirrels, one of her study areas was in a region of overlap between the two species. The book contains enough information about Northern Flying Squirrels so that it is truly a comparative study.

The book is enjoyable. It contains concise, reliable information about many aspects of the life of flying squirrels, but the text is never burdensome or technical. Aspects which I found of particular interest included: a description of the patagium (the squirrel's flight membrane) and the muscles and cartilages that give it an effective airfoil shape; a recounting of the squirrels' gliding techniques — how they launch themselves, manoeuvre during the glide and land safely against tree trunks or other objects; and a description of gliding behaviour in young squirrels. Other topics include home range size, nest construction, and communal winter nests where groups of squirrels enter a semi-torpid state during cold weather. She also describes how, during late winter, pregnant females leave the communal nests, become highly territorial and seek out a tree cavity or dray (leaf or branch nest) of their own.

Idiosyncrasies of northern flying squirrels are also included. Their propensity for developing drays in "witches" brooms' of conifers is described as is this species's strong affinity for caching and consuming mushrooms. She speculates that both species of flying squirrels may play an important role in spreading beneficial mycorrhizal fungi to the roots of different tree species. These particular fungi are known to assist trees in the absorption of nutrients and water while excluding harmful fungi. Wells-Gosling believes that by foraging on and caching mushrooms, flying squirrels may spread the spores of mycorrhizal fungi over a larger area of forest, and she suggests that the value of flying squirrels to the proper functioning of the forest community may have been greatly underestimated.

A later chapter discusses field techniques for studying these elusive species and methods to attract flying squirrels to feeding stations and nesting boxes. Another chapter discusses important considerations for maintaining these animals in a healthy state in captivity.

The text is nicely illustrated. Black-and-white photographs of flying squirrels in flight, of young at various stages of development, and of different field signs left behind by these species are among those that enhance the text. At places, however, I wished that some of the photographs had been printed in a larger format.

Flying squirrels are difficult creatures to study. The author has done an admirable job, both in doing research on these elusive creatures and in communicating the findings of her research. She is currently studying montane flying squirrels in the tropical forests of Costa Rica, and we can look forward to learning what she discovers about this isolated population of "gliders in the dark." — Reviewed by *J. David Henry*, Waskesiu, Saskatchewan. S0J 2Y0

NATURAL HERITAGE OF MANITOBA: LEGACY OF THE ICE AGE

Edited by JAMES T. TELLER 1984
Published by Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature and Manitoba Nature Magazine. Soft cover \$19.95

Nine knowledgeable men combined their considerable talents to put together this interesting and informative book on Manitoba, past and present, its geology before and after the ice age, the soils and vegetation, animals, prehistoric man, groundwater and minerals, and the impact of man on the land. Beautifully illustrated with numerous photographs and drawings, it gives references and suggested readings at the end of each of the nine chapters.

Since this book is so well written, it is startling to read on page 63 the word "lay" when it is assumed "lie" is intended. The odd proportions of the book make it difficult to put on a library shelf or in a book rest but it is printed on quality paper and is well bound. The lists of animals, birds and fish are useful. For anyone interested in the world around them this book is fascinating reading and a great reference. Would that every province which has not already done so could follow Manitoba's example and put together such a book. — Reviewed by *Christine Pike*, Box 117, Waseca, Saskatchewan. S0M 3A0

LETTERS

OWLS

Last spring I reported having observed a Screech Owl on our farm near Southey, Saskatchewan (Nature Notes from Southey, *Blue Jay* 43(3):201). On 16 December 1985 about 11:00 a.m., we found an owl perched on top of a birdhouse in the corner of our back yard in Southey. The house is on top of a post about 12 ft. high. It was watching for a meal, I suppose, in the field adjacent to our yard and it sat there for quite some time. I was able to get a good look at it from our window and did take a picture of it. The vertical bars on its upper breast and the horizontal bars on its underparts and the lack of ear tufts convinced me that it was a Barred Owl. Why was it so far away from its usual habitat of wooded ravines? I believe this owl is also scarce and usually found in the northeast part of the Province. — *Gertrude B. Hillier*, Box 351, Southey, Saskatchewan. SOG 4P0

COLLECTING PALAEO- TOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

In 1984 I wrote an article on the legality of fossil collecting in Saskatchewan published in *Blue Jay* (Tokaryk, Tim. 1984. Collecting vertebrate palaeontological specimens in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 42(2):75-76, and Tokaryk, Tim. 1985. Correction to collecting vertebrate palaeontological specimens in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 43(2):127). Since then I have received some comments about the article which I would like to clarify.

Near the end of the article, I used the word 'pillaged' in reference to the collecting of fossils in Canada by foreign institutions after the turn of the century. I

regret using this word because if it were not for the American museums taking interest in our fossil beds, it might have been much longer before we realised the potential of collecting fossils, mainly in western Canada.

The point I was trying to make was that I, personally, felt that it had taken the Canadian government too long to realise this potential.

I apologise to everyone I might have offended, especially my American colleagues. — *Tim T. Tokaryk*, Earth Sciences Program, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Saskatchewan. S4P 3V7

HUMMINGBIRDS — SAPSUCKERS

This photograph was taken a matter of weeks before the September 1985 *Blue Jay* arrived with an article on co-operation between sapsuckers and hummingbirds. During the summer my firm was involved in a highway surfacing project north of Maidstone, Saskatchewan. We had a site trailer set up in the shelterbelt-surrounded yard of the C & S Groceries about 20 km north of town. Several times in late August I was there for the day and noticed both species outside the trailer window, and on 15 August 1985, I snapped the picture which shows the sapsucker on the tree and the hummingbird buzzing in front of it. The sapsucker apparently visited the trees in the shelterbelt daily to eat bugs stuck to the sap, and the hummingbird followed it around, feeding on the fresh sap. The hummingbird would move in close to the sapsucker for a minute or two, feed, then retreat to a perch for a few minutes. The



sapsucker would methodically move up the tree and every few minutes the hummingbird would return for more. I assume this behaviour is most prevalent in the fall when other food sources for the hummingbird have ceased flowering. — *Christopher J. Escott*, 271 Sylvian Way, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7H 5G1

ALBINOS AND MEMORIES OF GROUSE

On 2 July 1984 I rode with David Watson of Swift Current to Stewart Valley and Riverhurst to see some fine Saskatchewan scenery. We headed south on #644 as we wished to see all the wildlife we could. After travelling southward several miles and coming to the edge of a wide hollow, we saw a car parked by the roadside. The occupants were watching three fox kits romping around the mouth of their distant hillside den.

We saw one glistening albino with the two normal red ones; we were told that there had been another which was not so white, but it seemed timid and went below. I kept the sighting quiet then, for I feared if it were seen in print, many would try to see and shoot the albinos. I hope they have survived and by doing so give others the pleasure of the rare sighting we had.

Years ago, I saw a black and white, crow-shaped bird south of Birtle. It was one of an early spring flock of crows, and although colored a lot like a magpie, it acted very much like a crow. I have also seen a partial albino robin near my home in east end Brandon, and my late wife also saw it.

I am now in my 75th year of birdwatching, and as a lad not yet 5 (years old) I had the rare experience of poking bread crumbs from the ventilator holes where both Sharp-tailed and Pinnated grouse scrambled for them. My two older sisters and I got our fingers pecked if we were too slow withdrawing them. — *Harold E. Watson*, 220 Franklin Street, Brandon, Manitoba. R7A 5P3

BIRD FEEDERS

Just as the eastern sky begins to show a rosy glow, there is a distant stirring of chirps and softly whistled trills in the large poplar bluff around our house. Soon the flocks come closer, and the birds, one by one, glide or flutter down to the feeding trays located in front of the living-room windows. Lady Luck smiled our way this year — we've never hosted so many feathered guests before. Good sized flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls come regularly to the feeders, keeping the resident birds company.

For a number of years, one of our most pleasant winter activities has been feeding and watching the birds at the feeding stations. Here, in the parkland area about 25 mi. north of the Qu'Appelle Valley, usually about a dozen chickadees and a pair each of Downy and Hairy woodpeckers seem to be yard residents the year around. These birds eagerly accept offerings of suet and their antics and cheery calls brighten many a frost day. The suet is hung from a tree branch so house sparrows can't steal it.

When the first Evening Grosbeaks dropped by in mid November, sunflower seeds were hurriedly put out on a big tray (a screen window on legs) and were found by the birds. The original flock of 7 began to grow, and was near 30 by the end of January. (I wonder how they "pass the word along.")

Next to appear was a pair of redpolls, to share the sunflower seed scraps and also offerings of canary seed. They, too, increased to a flock of over two dozen.

Several Pine Grosbeaks appeared and began pecking the seeds from the ground below the trays. They were fed on the ground, first sunflower seeds and then flax, until they began using the trays. Up to 16 came in the flock; however, they are nomadic in habit, disappearing for a few days and then returning, usually when the weather gets colder. It is generally known that Pine Grosbeaks like flax but it was a surprise to observe that they preferred sunflower seeds.

On three occasions a flock of about 20 Bohemian Waxwings came calling. They ate dried Saskatoons and Chokecherries that were still hanging on the bushes. At times they flew down to the feeders to see what the other birds were eating, but seeds are not their preference (and raisins are too expensive) so they soon flew away.

We have tried cracked wheat, rolled oats and lentils but the seed-eating birds prefer sunflower seeds and canary seeds. Chickadees are also very fond of sunflower seeds.

Now that we know what foods attract the birds to our yard, we look forward to their company for years to come. — *Jean Hilton*, R.R. 1, Bangor, Saskatchewan. SOA OE0

UNUSUAL GREBE BEHAVIOR AND OTHER NOTES

In July 1985 I observed a behavior I had not witnessed before. Two Herring Gulls came flying over the slough, swooping at a Horned Grebe nest - one of the grebes, with an egg in its bill, dived; the second grebe did the same with the other egg. When the two grebes surfaced one started pulling the nest apart; the other brought material trying to patch the nest. The gulls were still flying around. The grebe seemed confused. I was prepared to spend much time observing the grebes, but a car drove into the yard and I had to leave. A gale-like wind and dust storm kept me from checking the slough the following day. When checked 2 days later the nest appeared abandoned. I keep wondering would the grebes, or could they, bring the eggs up again. Can someone shed some light on this strange behavior.

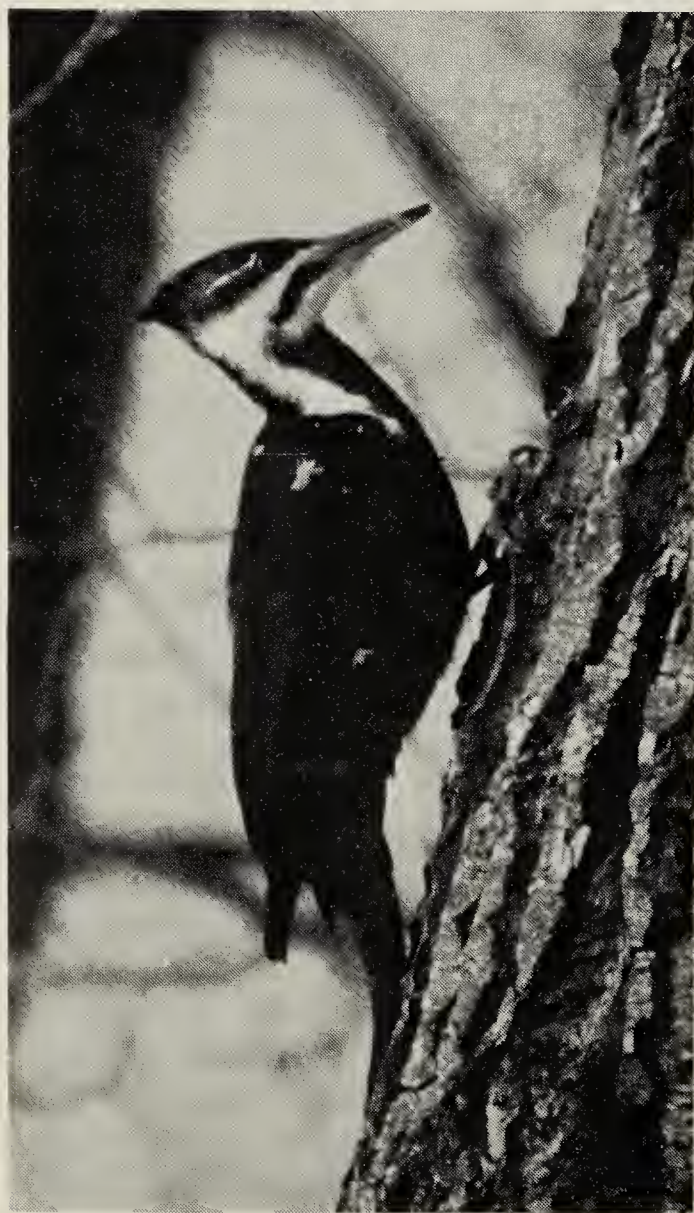
House Sparrows do not always win the fight. On 1 June 1985 I watched a Tree Swallow viciously attack a sparrow in mid-air as the sparrow tried to fly up to where a pair of Tree Swallows were nesting in a Purple Martin house. Both came tumbling down; after a wrestling match in the grass the swallow (smiling) flew back to the nest. The sparrow lay dazed, regaining its senses slowly, then flying away, with wounded pride I'm sure. The swallows raised their family with no more interruptions.

Do Great Horned Owls choose their nesting sites near food supplies? We heard much hooting during January and February and two owls were seen often, sometimes perched in trees, sleeping or watching as the men went about feeding the cattle. It didn't seem to bother the owls. Then, in early March it was discovered that a pair was nesting in trees near bale stacks, cow shed and where

cattle were fed. Mice are usually around feed stacks! What effect the owls will have on our chickens is something we'll have to wait and see. — *Flossie Bogdan*, Box 92, Spring Valley, Saskatchewan. 50H 3X0

PILEATED WOODPECKER

This Pileated Woodpecker was digging into a mature Balsam Poplar. They are active when the weather is mild in winter. The temperature when the picture was taken was about 0° C and the time about sunset. There are areas of climax forest - yet, so there is suitable habitat for them. — *Anthony Capusten*, 1139 River Street West, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. S6V 3A2



RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Just a note to say I had a male Rufous Hummingbird at the feeder on 12 August 1985. It was a cold day with rainy spells. I had 18 Ruby-throats also that day and the Rufous caused a great commotion. He certainly wasn't welcome; and he was gone the next day. This was my first sighting of a Rufous Hummingbird. — *Sarah Pavka*, Box 38, Livelong, Saskatchewan. 50M 1J0

SASKATCHEWAN PALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An increasing interest in palaeontology has been building up in Saskatchewan. People are becoming more aware that Saskatchewan has many fossils of various ages. To get a consensus of those interested in forming a Saskatchewan Paleontological Society, please contact:

Tim Tokaryk

Earth Sciences Program
Saskatchewan Museum of Natural
History
Wascana Park
Regina S4P 3V7
or telephone 787-9053 (office) or
337-3909 (home).

Please note that this is only to gauge if there is sufficient interest for such a society.

DONATION

A donation to the society has been made in memory of Bill Richards by the "Golden Eagles" of Saskatoon.

